



## A Lesson on The Big Game by Jonathan Zanders-nelson

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour

**Lesson Keywords:** The Big Game

**Lesson Description:** Complete parts 1-3 on The Big Game

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3a: Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### The Big Game by

**Content:** It was Friday. The football game was Saturday and we were very excited. My brother was going to be the quarterback for our team. It was the first time he would be in that position. He had been hoping to be quarterback ever since he joined the team. He said, That's the big job. That's the one that makes the big difference.

My mother said, Be careful, son. That's the big target, too. You know the other players want to sack you. You can get hurt.

Dont worry; Im tough and Im fast. Plus, I have great players who will block them.

That night I couldnt sleep well. I worried about my brother. My mother was right. He could get hurt.

The next morning, he left early to get to the game. When we got there, it was about to start. The team ran out on the field. He looked great. He saw us and waved.

Then it started. They were playing hard. One player in particular from the other team kept rushing at him. Then it happened. He knocked my brother down. My brother was slow to get up. My mother was screaming. The coach ran out on the field. He told my brother to take some time on the bench. He was afraid he had been hurt.

My mother ran down to check on my brother. But all he did was smile. Its just a bruise. Im fine. And dont worry, Ill be back. This is great. I love leading the team.

My mother was so worried then, but my brother was right. He plays quarterback every Saturday. She cant go to the games. She just waits at home and hopes to see him walking in smiling.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** excited **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Based off the text, what did the author mean when using the word "excited" to describe how he felt about the football game?

- A: Eager
- B: Nervous
- C: Skeptical
- D: Didn't care

**Question:** Select the sentence that best defines the word "excited" as used in the text.

- A: Tim was excited about Christmas being tomorrow.
- B: Tim is excited when sleeping.
- C: Tim is excited when nothing is going on.
- D: Tim doesn't know what exciting is.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** position **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "It was the first time he would be in that position". What does the word "position" mean based off the text?

- A: Thing
- B: Home
- C: Situation
- D: School

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "position" correctly?

- A: Kelly always stayed home for position.
- B: Kelly's new position was the sales manager.
- C: Kelly had terrible memory of position.
- D: Kelly never requested position.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** particular **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Based off the text, what is the best meaning for the word, "particular?"

- A: Indifferent
- B: Common
- C: Bland
- D: Specific

**Question:** Choose the sentence that uses the word "particular" correctly.

- A: Banks had a particular routine before games.
- B: Red & White aren't very particular.
- C: There are not any particular individuals running.
- D: I have no idea what this word means.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** careful **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "careful" mean in this sentence: "Be careful, son"

- A: Carefree
- B: Cautious
- C: Indifferent
- D: Jovial

**Question:** Choose one of the sentences below that best describes the meaning of the word "careful"

- A: Jon was careful to not wake his parents.
- B: The teacher was careful to give out all As.
- C: The green beans were careful to turn green.
- D: Timmy was so careful he made a mess in the kitchen.

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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Why was Mom worried?

Using the text, explain why the mom was so worried about her son playing football. Use examples from the text.

### 2 - The Brothers' Excitement

Why is one brother excited for Saturday and the other brother was nervous??

### 3 - Parents & Sports

Using prior knowledge and what you read in the story, how do you feel most parents feel when watching their children participate in sports?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on the conclusion of the game after the brother got hurt.?Make sure to provide specific examples and use all vocabulary words from Part 1.

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