



## A Lesson on The Quarterback by Ashlyn Seward

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Vocabulary, Writing, Critical Thinking, Football

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson, students will practice reading comprehension, learn new vocabulary words and write responses to ideas discussed in the text. Students will use context to determine the meanings of vocabulary words, and be able to use those words in a sentence. Students will also practice comprehension and critical thinking to discuss major themes and ideas of the story with their peers.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

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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 Quarterback

by

**Content:** Jos was a quarterback at his old school. The team had won 8 of its 10 last games. He knew how to play very well. He had to transfer to a new school this year because his family had moved to the other side of the city.

When he got to school the first day, he went to see the football coach. He said, I want to be quarterback. ?

You're late, the coach replied. We had tryouts last spring. We already have a quarterback. We even have a backup. So you can come to practice, but we don't have a place for you on the team.

Jos was discouraged. He told his stepfather that he wanted to go back to his old school. But his stepfather said that they could not move back there because his new job was on this side of the city. Your mother's family is near here, too, and we need to go to help them sometimes now that your grandmother is sick.

Jos had not made any friends, and he sat alone in his room. He would text his old friends at his old school, and they would text back with news. But that just made him more unhappy.

Then he went to the first practice. The coach said, Jos, help with the warm-up. Let's see what you can do.

Jos played with the team, practicing, just throwing passes at first. Then the coach put him into some plays. Meanwhile, Jos was watching Mason, the quarterback. He's not that good, he said. I could do better. But he knew he was wrong. Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately.

Then Mason turned to him. Let's give Jos a chance. So Jos did take the quarterback role for one play. As they played, he realized that it wasn't the quarterback who made the play work. It was the whole team. The team took the ball he passed and made a touchdown. All he had done was make the first pass.

After the practice, he went to the coach. He told him that he would be proud to be able to help the team. He said that he did not expect to be on the team but wanted to be with them. I just love football, he said. I didn't realize until today that I just want to be part of the game.

The coach asked him to be part of their practices from then on. Next year, Jos, we will have a position for you.

By the end of the season, Jos had many friends. One of his best friends was Mason. ?

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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:** Transfer **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In this story, the author says "He had to transfer to a new school this year because his family had moved to to the other side of the city." What does the word "transfer" mean in this sentence?

- A: To pass a ball
- B: To give something away
- C: To move from one place to another
- D: To change grades in school

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "transfer" correctly?

- A: Carlos had to transfer to second grade.
- B: My brother doesn't want to transfer schools.
- C: The quarterback wanted to transfer the football.
- D: My mom decided to transfer her birthday present.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Accurately **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In this story, the author says "Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately." What does the word "accurately" mean in this sentence?

- A: Correctly
- B: Easily
- C: Suddenly
- D: Carelessly

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "accurately" correctly?

- A: He accurately walked to school.
- B: She learned to kick the ball accurately.
- C: The teacher was accurately scared.
- D: The newborn baby accurately slept.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Passes **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author says "The team took the ball he passed and made a touchdown. All he had done was make the first pass." What does the word "pass" mean in this sentence?

- A: To go around
- B: To succeed on a test
- C: To be excused from
- D: To give to another player

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "pass" correctly?

- A: The student was given a homework pass for getting a good grade.
- B: The car decided to pass the biker on the road.
- C: He tried to pass the ball.
- D: I hope you pass your test.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Play **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author says "So Jos? did take the quarterback role for one play." What does the world "play" mean in this sentence?

- A: A drama performance
- B: An attempt to move the ball
- C: Having fun
- D: A uniform

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "play" correctly?

- A: The coach planned out the next play on the field.
- B: I watched the kids play on the swings.
- C: He forgot to wear his play.
- D: The actress bought tickets to the play.

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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 did talking to his old friends make Jos? unhappy?

In the story, the author says Jos? had not made any friends, and he sat alone in his room. He would text his old friends at his old school, and they would text back with news. But that just made him more unhappy. Explain why you think talking to his old friends didn't help Jos, and made him more upset.?

### 2 - Why did Jos? say he was better than Mason?

When Jos? is watching Mason during practice, the author writes 'He's not that good,' he said. 'I could do better.' But he knew he was wrong. Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately. Why would Jos? lie to himself, when he knew he wasn't as good as Mason? How do you think watching Mason made him feel?

### 3 - How does Jos? change at the end of the story?

Towards the end of the story, the author says He said that he did not expect to be on the team but wanted to be with them. 'I just love football,' he said. 'I didn't realize until today that I just want to be part of the game.' What made Jos? change his mind about playing with the football team? How is he different at the end of the story from the beginning of the story?

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### Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on how moving affected Jos. In your own words, explain how he originally responded to moving, and how you think he felt about it by the end of the story.?Make sure to provide specific examples from the text.

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