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A Lesson on The Hero by Erin Dean

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Comprehension, Opinion Writing, Discussion, The Hero

Lesson Description: This lesson will help students create and clearly communicate their own opinions, based on information and details from the text.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.RI.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.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1a: Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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 Hero

by

Content: I was flying home from New York. I was looking forward to seeing my family. I had been away for a week. I missed my children.

The plane took off on a bright morning. Then after three minutes, there was big trouble. I saw a fire outside. One of the engines was on fire.

I said to the woman next to me, We have to go back. Were going to crash. The woman was so worried she could not talk.

Then the flight attendant came and told us we need to land. It will be hard, so brace yourselves. Put your head down. Hold tight. She sounded brave. But her face was so worried. Still, she was doing her job, taking care of us.

I looked at the woman next to me. I said, I hope were okay. Lets pray for the best. I believe people should help each other. So I will pray for you, too.

I was praying to be saved when there was a big thud. The plane had hit something. Later I found out it was the river.

When I got out of my seat, there was another passenger just standing there. He was dazed. Take my hand, I said. Lets go.

So I pulled him along as I went to the emergency exit. Then we were on the wing of the plane. We were standing in the river. I was too surprised to think about anything.

Then we got on a rescue boat. I hugged the fireman on the boat. Thank you for saving my life, I said. Thank yourselves, he said. And your captain. Hes my hero today.

I found my cell phone was in my pocket. I took it out and called my family. When they answered the phone I said, Dont worry, Im fine, but there was a problem. I will see you later. I will be so glad to be home with you.

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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: Brace **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "It will be hard, so brace yourselves..." What does the word "brace" mean in this sentence?

- A:** a device that clamps things together
- B:** to prepare yourself for something unpleasant
- C:** a buckle to hold you in
- D:** to hurt

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

- A:** Jamie's cut is really bloody, so brace yourself.
- B:** I put my ankle brace on before soccer practice.
- C:** The wall was held up by a wooden brace.
- D:** Sammy was braced after he saw the scary movie.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Dazed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "When I got out of my seat, there was another passenger just standing there. He was dazed." What does the word "dazed" mean in this sentence?

- A:** injured
- B:** being lazy
- C:** old
- D:** being unable to think or react properly

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

- A:** The man looked for his lost cat for dazed.
- B:** When I talked to Samantha, she didn't seem to hear me; she seemed dazed.
- C:** The women seemed dazed because she knew all the answers.
- D:** The dazed boy got an A on his writing test.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Passenger **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "When I got out of my seat, there was another passenger just standing there." What does the word "passenger" mean in this sentence?

- A:** pacifier
- B:** a rare bacteria
- C:** a traveler
- D:** a chair

Question: Which one of the sentences below used the word "passenger" correctly?

- A:** The passengers on the train were going to New York.
- B:** The baby's passenger fell out of its mouth.
- C:** I took my passenger with me to the store.
- D:** I passengered my friend on the way to the football game.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Emergency **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "So I pulled him along as I went to the emergency exit". What does the word "emergency exit" mean in this sentence?

- A:** an outside exit
- B:** the exit you take in a serious or dangerous situation
- C:** a secret room
- D:** the room where the flight attendants sit

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "emergency exit" correctly?

- A:** The emergency exit felt really sad when I left it.
- B:** I went into the library and found an emergency exit into Narnia.
- C:** The emergency exit at my house is where my family goes to watch TV.
- D:** When the fire alarm went off at school, my class went out the emergency exit.

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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 - How do you think the narrator felt when the plane was crashing?

The narrator says, I hope we're okay. Let's pray for the best. I believe people should help each other. So I will pray for you, too. Explain how these sentences demonstrate how the narrator feels about the plane crashing.

2 - If you were the flight attendant in this story, would you have been able to do your job in that situation?

The story tells us this about the flight attendant: Then the flight attendant came and told us we need to land. 'It will be hard, so brace yourselves. Put your head down. Hold tight.' She sounded brave. But her face was so worried. Still, she was doing her job, taking care of us. Would you be able to do this?

3 - What is the climax of the story?

What is the most intense, exciting or important part of this story? Using details from the text, explain why.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In this story, the narrator thinks the hero is the fireman. However, the fireman thinks the hero is the captain. In at least one paragraph, explain who you think the real hero is. Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

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