



## A Lesson on The Train Ride by Jaclyn Saunders

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** [http://lessonfarm.com/lesson\\_edit.php?id=977](http://lessonfarm.com/lesson_edit.php?id=977)

**Lesson Description:** This lesson helps students use context clues to find the meaning of words. The writing lesson enables them to bring their own experiences to life and explain their reasoning about what is important to them. This should display comprehension of the material and how to properly convey their own ideas.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons 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 Train Ride

by

**Content:** Hurry up, Tee, or we're going to miss it.?

My name is actually Terrence, but you'd never know it from listening to everyone?around me. The only person who ever called me by my proper name was my grandmother,?but since she's been gone, Tee is all I hear.?

Get out of the fridge. We don't have time, and you already finished the last of the?macaroni.?

Mom generally moves at 90 miles an hour, but she's really in overdrive this evening. ?Since this whole thing began, she's been watching the news every night, clipping newspaper?articles, and talking about nothing but politics to anyone who'll sit still and listen for more?than a minute. Except for the times when she's chasing after me, I've never seen her so?energized. The way she's been talking about it all week long, you'd think that she was the one?delivering the acceptance speech tonight.?

If you're not ready in 30 seconds, I'm leaving you here, she yells from the front door. ?But I know she wouldn't leave without me. You'll be grounded for a month of Sundays if?we're still on the train when he begins.?

The truth is that she managed to get me excited about the election, too. I'm not quite as?excited as she is. I don't think anybody is. But seeing someone who looks like me, a skinny?kid with big ears, become President of the United States, well, it makes me think anything is?possible. That thought is enough to get me to slam shut the refrigerator door, grab my?sweatshirt, and race down the hallway for the door.?

As we speed walk towards the station, I have to almost run to keep up with Mom. I?never saw her hurry like this.?

Finally, we're at the station, and I feel like we're really on our way now. When the train?pulls in, I can't believe my eyes. Each train car is packed full. There's standing room only, just?like rush hour. It seems like everyone is talking, and even the silent few are smiling. I've?never seen any of these people in my life, yet people are talking with me.?

The intercom crackles: 47th Street, 47th Street. No smoking or radio players. Next?stop 35th.?

I look over to my mom, who's lost in thought. I know she can't tell whether or not I?understand everything that's going on - that's been going on for these last 12 months. I don't?know if I do, but I feel a tingling inside that tells me I might.?

Harrison... Harrison. No smoking or radio players. Next stop, Jackson. Thats Grant?Park. Everyone cheersit is so exciting.?

I feel my heartbeat quicken as I realize that, for once in my life, I won't be reading about?the big things that make it into history books. I'll be watching it unfold in front of my eyes.?

I look over at my mom and catch her looking at me, nodding. We've arrived.

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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:** overdrive **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "Mom generally moves at 90 miles an hour, but she's really in overdrive this evening." What does the word overdrive mean in this sentence?

**A:** A state of high or excessive activity

**B:** Slow-paced

**C:** Very angry

**D:** Tired

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

**A:** It felt like I was in overdrive relaxing on the couch watching tv.

**B:** I was in overdrive, rushing from store to store before the sale ended.

**C:** She was in overdrive when she saw the room a mess.

**D:** He went into overdrive after his long day at the beach.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Politics **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The boy in the article states "since this whole thing began, she's been watching the news every night, clipping newspaper articles, and talking about nothing but politics to anyone who will sit still and listen for more than a minute." What does the word "politics" mean in this sentence?

**A:** A job in transportation

**B:** A new sport similar to basketball.

**C:** A sign of animal cruelty.

**D:** The activities associated with the governance of a country or other area.

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

**A:** The history class discussed politics in the 1800s.

**B:** He did not understand how the politics were used.

**C:** Did you see how well he performed at his politics?

**D:** They were so ashamed of the politics used when they moved the tigers from the zoo in San Diego to the zoo in Cincinnati.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** nodding **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says "I look over at my mom and catch her looking at me, nodding. We've arrived." What does the word "nodding" mean in this sentence?

**A:** To turn away quickly.

**B:** Making a frowned face, or showing upset.

**C:** Signaling someone in agreement by moving the head up and down slightly.

**D:** Falling asleep.

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

**A:** He was nodding as he ran through the crowd of people.

**B:** The stadium was nodding when the football team lost the extra point.

**C:** The store clerk was nodding to the customer as she thanked him for his help in the store.

**D:** She looked at him nodding about the worst day she had.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** intercom **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in the story says, "The intercom crackles: 47th Street, 47th Street. No smoking or radio players. Next stop 35th." What does the word "intercom" mean in this sentence?

**A:** A loud horn.

**B:** A device used to allow one way or two way conversation.

**C:** A large window on the side of a train.

**D:** A device used to scan tickets.

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

**A:** We heard the voice on the intercom announce that we are 30 minutes away from our stop.

**B:** The intercom made me trip as I stepped onto the platform.

**C:** Does anyone know how to open the intercom?

**D:** Will the intercom display my destination?

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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 do you think Tee's mother says "hurry up?"

Tee's mother says to hurry up or we'll miss it, in the beginning of the story. Why is she telling him to hurry and what is she afraid of missing?

### 2 - Election excitement

The boy Tee explains in the text that his mom got him excited about the election too. What election is he referring to?

### 3 - History books

The boy in the story talks about how for once in his life, he won't be reading about the big things that make it into history books and that he will be watching it unfold right in front of his eyes? What is he referring to and why would he reference the situation to being in history books?

### 4 - The mood of the article

Based on the story you read, how do you think the people are feeling about the event that is about to take place?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 250 words on an event in your life that was important to you. Explain when this event occurred and how it made you feel. What was the reaction of others around you during this event?

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