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A Lesson on The Challenge by Marisa Hoffman

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, learning responsibility

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use reading and writing habits that students have been practicing daily, to absorb Rebecca Sandler's interesting lessons on responsibilities. By reading the passage intently several times, and focusing the students passage on a series of questions and discussions about the text, students will be able to identify how and why Robert started to take on responsibility because of his actions. When combined with writing and reading about the passage, students will discover responsibility around the house and respect for his toys.

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.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2c: Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also, because).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2d: Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

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 Challenge

by Rebecca Sandler

Content: Mrs. Bertram loved her son, but she worried about him. He was always losing things, and he did not take care of his toys or clothes. She wanted him to be more careful. She wanted him to be responsible.

She was reading a book one morning, or at least she was trying to. It was not easy to do so because Robert was in the hall playing with his drum. Suddenly the drumming stopped and Robert rushed into the room crying.

I broke it! I broke it, he sobbed.

Your drum? asked his mother. How did you do that?

I was beating it with the knives and--

With the knives! exclaimed his mother. Where were your drumsticks?

I--I--don't know, sobbed Roger.

Have you lost them? said Mrs. Bertram. She needed no words to know the answer. Robert's manner was quite enough. You know, Robert, what I said would happen the next time you lost anything.

Yes, said Robert, You said I must give away all my toys to some little boys who would know how to take care of them.

Yes, said his mother. I see you remember. I will send them all to the children's hospital tonight.

But, mama, said Robert, if I don't have any toys to take care of, how can I learn to take care of them?

Mrs. Bertram had to turn away so that Robert would not see her smile. I will have to think of some other way to teach you to be careful. I will think of something, and I will tell you what to do tonight.

That night, she told him, I have decided that there is another way you can show how careful you are. I want you to do the laundry every week for two months.

Robert looked astonished. Boys don't wash clothes, he said.

Sometimes, said his mother, smilingly. Now if you do this every day for two months, I will know you have become more responsible. Being careful is part of growing up. It means you are responsible, and it means people can trust you. This is a challenge. It is something to do that is not easy. It will help everyone in the family.

The next week Robert began his work. At first, he disliked it very much. But after a while he changed his mind. He wanted to show his mother he was responsible. He not only washed the clothes, but he also folded them neatly. He kept his toys in a box where he could find them. He was careful with everything.

The day when his two months would be up was Christmas Day. Imagine Roger's delight when he saw he had a new coat, a video game and a new drum and drumsticks. On them was a note: For Robert, who is very responsible. He felt proud.

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: Responsible **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Now if you do this every day for two months, I will know you have become more responsible...." What does the word "responsible" mean in this sentence?

- A: Careless
- B: Unreliable
- C: Hard-working
- D: Disobedient

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

- A: The toys to clean up were as much his responsibility as hers.
- B: His responsibility was to take out the trash, but refused to do so.
- C: Responsibility consists of carelessness and unreliability.
- D: All group members have their own responsibility's, but Sarah did not do her share.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Careful **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "She wanted him to be more careful..." What does the word "careful" mean in this sentence?

- A: Reckless
- B: Cautious
- C: Thoughtless
- D: Careless

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

- A: To be careful is not thinking and being reckless.
- B: Brody carefully walked across the street but did not look both ways.
- C: Cautious is the opposite of careful.
- D: Being careful is looking both ways before crossing the street.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Exclaimed **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "With the knives!" exclaimed his mother... What does the word "exclaimed" mean in this sentence?

- A: Shout
- B: Be quiet
- C: Whisper
- D: Mumbled

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

- A: Ruth exclaimed again in a very soft voice.
- B: I don't need you telling me what to do! he softly exclaimed to himself.
- C: "Stop it!" he exclaimed loudly.
- D: Exclaimed means to be quiet or silent.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Remember **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "I see you remember. I will send them all to the children's hospital tonight".... What does the word "remember" mean in this sentence?

- A: Forget
- B: Lose
- C: Neglect
- D: Recall

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

- A: "Do you remember me?" asked Alex.
- B: Mr. Remember is our school principal.
- C: Remember means to forget about something.
- D: Mike Remember, is our favorite singer.

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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 one peer response for each topic.

1 - Did Robert learn his lesson to be more responsible and careful with his toys? Why or why not?
Yes, Robert learned responsibility by showing his mother that he can wash his clothes every week for two months.?

2 - Do you think Robert deserved the new toys he got at Christmas time? Why or why not?
I think Robert deserved the new toys he got, because he was able to show his mother that he is responsible and able to take care of his toys.?

3 - What are some ways that you can be responsible, like Robert?
Making sure I clean up after myself, if i make a mess. As well as, helping out around the house.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing assignment, you are to explain how Robert learned responsibility, as well as ways on how you can be responsible yourself. Minimum of 100 words and give examples.?

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