



## A Lesson on Summer by Sereni Ramos

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing, and critical thinking

<http://learnersdictionary.com/definition/children>

**Lesson Description:** Students will learn reading skills, vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension.

Students will read the passage individually and then the teacher will read the passage out loud and discuss. Students will use classroom iPads as a research tool to assist with finding facts needed to understand and complete the lesson. Students will answer and ask questions about the vocabulary and reading questions that are presented in the lesson. Students will complete the questions and discuss with classmates.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5: Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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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.

### Summer

by

**Content:** I had been looking forward to the summer all year. We would go to stay with my grandparents. They lived on a farm in Illinois. They had all kinds of things to do. We would get up early and milk the cows. Then we would feed the chickens. It was so different from living in the city. It is like making a trip between civilizations. Consider how different it is to live in different ways--the city and the farm, the rural and the urban, my brother said. He was going to college and liked to use big words like that.

The day came to go there. I was excited. So was my brother. My mother packed a lunch for us to eat along the way. Then we left. After about 3 hours we were halfway there.

But then it started to rain. The road is dangerous, my mother said. We could skid. It was hard to see where we were on the road because the rain was so heavy. This is much more than a little rain, my brother said. The forecast was for just light rain.

My mother took an exit ramp. We left the highway and stopped at a restaurant. Better safe than sorry, she said. I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.

We were waiting there for about an hour when my brother said, Lets eat lunch. We all thought that was a great idea, so we did.

Imagine long ago when pioneers lived here, my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then. They would have been so tired. They would have been hot and hungry. We have gone about 120 miles. And we are comfortable. We have air conditioning and restaurants.

There have been so many changes that make a difference to how people travel, my brother said. Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars.

But that is what we have when we are at the farm, Mother replied. That is how your grandparents live. They dont have any cell phones, and they just have that slow old truck.

Just then the rain stopped. We finished our lunch and then were back on the road. Then we drove a long while to get us to the farm.

When we arrived, everyone was glad to be at the end of this trip and at the beginning of a great summer. Now we will have a great summer, my mother said. I agreed. This would be another good time.

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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:** civilizations **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What word best defines the meaning of the word "civilizations" from this sentence in the story: "It is like making a trip between civilizations".

- A: cultures
- B: planets
- C: space
- D: zoos

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "civilizations" correctly?

- A: Jimmy and his mother planted tiny civilizations in their garden.
- B: She decorated her civilizations with glitter and gold.
- C: He went to study Western civilizations like the United States.
- D: She was hungry and decided to dine on some civilizations.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** forecast **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "The forecast was for just light rain." What does the word "forecast" mean in this sentence?

- A: a pretty dress
- B: a fun trip
- C: a prediction of what the weather will be like
- D: a large bouquet of flowers

**Question:** Choose the correct use of "forecast" from the sentences provided below. Which one of the sentences uses the word "forecast" correctly?

- A: He handed her a forecast to stir the soup.
- B: The forecast she wore was beautiful.
- C: Peanut butter and forecast sandwiches are delicious.
- D: What is the weather forecast for tomorrow?

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** skid **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "We could skid." What does the word "skid" mean in this sentence?

- A: A sudden sliding of a vehicle without the wheels turning.
- B: A plank, log, or bar on which heavy objects can be rolled or slid.
- C: A runner used as the landing gear of certain aircraft.
- D: A downward way to failure or ruin.

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "skid" correctly?

- A: You must use the remote control to skid the TV.
- B: His father asked him to skid the dog before bed.
- C: She enjoyed eggs, bacon, and a side of skid.
- D: The car skid to a halting stop.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The road is dangerous..." What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

- A: a fun night out
- B: hazardous, unsafe
- C: a trip to the movie theatre
- D: involving cake, presents, and balloons

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: Most people do not want to be a ballerina because it's so dangerous.
- B: He thought skydiving wasn't dangerous.
- C: It's dangerous to eat fruits and vegetables.
- D: Mining is dangerous work.

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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 - Better safe than sorry

The narrators mother says, Better safe than sorry...I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival. Explain what is meant by this sentence: Why did the mother stop for lunch? Why did she bring up Pioneer days and history of the past?

### 2 - Anticipate

When the narrators mother says, ...I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival. Explain what is meant by anticipate? Why do you think she decided to call?

### 3 - Imagine

Imagine a long ago when pioneers lived here, my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then. They would have been so tired. They would have been hot and hungry. We have gone about 120 miles. And we are comfortable. We have air conditioning and restaurants... Why do you think the narrators brother brought this up??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the city and the farm or the rural and the urban, like the narrators brother described in the passage.

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