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Lesson Title: A Box Full of Perspectives

Grade Level/Subject: Fifth/Language Arts

Benchmark(s):

Develop an interpretation of grade-level literary text: Draw inferences, conclusions or generalizations about text, and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.

Demonstrate general understanding of grade-level literary text: Identify…the influence of specific events on future actions.

Objectives(s): Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of perspective-taking by writing a paragraph from a different point-of-view than the story was written. Students must be able to share their perspective and realistically explain how the event will affect their character (should be implied through their writing).

Lesson Assessment:

Materials: 6 squares of cardstock paper-large enough to write a paragraph on
A short story: “When One Tree Fell” – one copy for each student
Dark marker, pencils, colored pencils, and Scotch tape
Groups of 4-5 students

Length of Lesson: 20-30 min

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<th>Pacing</th>
<th>Procedures/Activities (Teacher &amp; Student)</th>
<th>Teacher Actions/Notes</th>
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<td>2min</td>
<td>Set: Discuss with the group…“Who knows what point-of-view means? What are you doing when you take a certain perspective? Is it difficult to try to take on someone else’s?”</td>
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<td>3min</td>
<td>“Now, we will read a very short story called “When One Tree Fell.” I would like everyone to listen very carefully to the story because you will want to know details for our later activity involving perspectives. Right now, whose perspective will you listen to the story from?” (Mine-student)</td>
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<td>8min</td>
<td>Read “When One Tree Fell” as students follow along with their own copies. *Note—the story is pretty straightforward but discuss if needed.</td>
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"We are going to discuss possible perspectives or points of view for this short story. My example is going to be to take the perspective of the man who drove to the forest to cut down the tree. What is going to happen when I cut down the tree and take it out on my truck? -get paid so I can eat dinner that night -annoyed I had to drive all the way out for one -excited to help the family who needed it -etc

“I think I will write my paragraph about getting paid to cut the tree down.”

Begin modeling-writing on the cardstock-hung on the board…

I haven’t had much work lately so my meals have been very small. All I could think about as the tree was falling is how hungry I was! When I delivered it to the family, they were very grateful, and so was I when they paid me $100.00! I said, “Please call me if you have any other work for me.” It was wonderful to get a full plate of mashed potatoes and chicken.

“Once I am done writing my paragraph, I can share it with a teacher and then I can add to it or draw a picture until others are finished.”

“What other people, animals, or items can I take the perspective of from the story?” Take about 4 ideas, verbally repeating them.

“Now everyone needs a cardstock paper. Please take the perspective of something or someone from the story to write at least 4 sentences from. Who knows what perspective they will write from?” Call on everyone and then get started.

As they get done, show them how to tape the sides together to create a square box.

Closure: Let’s have a look at this box we have created. Do you see that each side has a very different perspective on it, but they are all have
something in common? When this one tree fell, look how many lives were affected in both good and bad ways. We have created a boxful of perspectives and you all did a great job! Thank you!

Self-reflection:

When One Tree Fell

A small family in Oregon discovered one rainy day that they needed to replace their roof. It leaked in five spots and was soaking everything in sight! They were desperate so they called upon their neighbor to go find a grand tree to chop for their new roof. The roofer was happy to have work since he hadn’t in several months. They promised to pay a good amount for him to bring a beautiful tree back.

The very next morning, the roofer went off into the woods to find a tree to match the expectations of the small family. As he came into a clearing, he saw a pair of squirrels running circles around and up and down a medium sized tree. The squirrels stopped chasing one another and looked at the man. A bunny sitting nearby dove under some showing tree roots as the man approached the tree. He had made his decision.

As the roofer began chopping the tree, a robin nest fell from one of the lower branches. There were no eggs in it, but it was rather smashed. A large army of ants began escaping out of many tiny holes in the bark of the tree. They quickly marched down to the ground and off to find another home. The roofer ignored this mass army of ants, as he was preoccupied with thoughts of a well-deserved dinner soon to come.

Suddenly, the tree began to creak and moan. It was ready to come down! The roofer took a few steps back and watched as a 3 foot stump was all that was left of the 25 foot tree. The great noise that followed the tree’s meeting with the ground scared hundreds of birds up from other trees and several pieces of broken bark went flying off into the woods. As the roofer drug the tree away from the clearing with his truck, he looked over his shoulder, feeling millions of tiny eyes staring back at him.

The family was so amazed at the handiwork of the roofer as he finished the job that they gave him $120.00. They were so thankful that water was no longer soaking their beds, shoes, dishes, even their dog! The dog ran to the roofer and jumped into his arms to give him a big lick. Back in the forest, as the new rain began to fall, the bunny
peaked his head out of the roots to see the army of ants return to the 3 foot stump to begin creating their home again.