

PACE

Sample Lesson Plan

Basket Moon

by Mary Lyn Ray

LOYALTY

“The hero draws inspiration from the virtue of his ancestors.” ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



DEFINITION: Loyalty: (*noun*) the condition of being faithful to a person, family, country, idea, or custom

Adjective: loyal

Synonyms: fidelity; allegiance; tie; bond; devotedness

Antonyms: faithlessness; disloyalty



April Book of the Month: *Basket Moon* by Mary Lyn Ray

Grades K-3

I. Reading Comprehension: Answer the following questions in the spaces below (or out loud):

1. Who are the main characters in this story?

2. What types of trees are “basket trees?”

3. Where does the story take place?

4. When does the boy finally go into town with his Pa?

5. Why does the boy kick the baskets in the shed?

V. Discussion:*Basket Moon & Loyalty*

1. In the beginning of the book, what does the boy think about his father's basket-weaving? Does he like it or dislike it? Why/why not?
2. Why does the boy's attitude towards the tradition of basket-making change negatively during the book?
3. Do you think that perhaps the boy's father has been mocked in the past because of his profession? If so, how do you think he felt?
4. Loyalty involves sacrifice. What sacrifice does the boy in the story make, or will he have to make in the future?
5. In what ways are you loyal to your family, your church, your friends?

VI. Activities:

Complete one or both of the below activities:

1. Walk around your house (or a store) and examine the different baskets that you see. What materials are used to make the baskets? Does basket-weaving look easy to you? Difficult? Why?
2. There are many easy weaving activities on the internet. You can choose to do one of them, or try something easy, like weaving ribbons. Using different-colored ribbons of the same size, weave them in and out of a slatted gate or fence to make a colorful pattern. Braiding is a similar activity and one that you can do with yarn, thread, or even hair!

ANSWER KEY

I. Reading Comprehension

1. The main characters are Pa, Ma, the boy, and Big Joe.
2. Basket trees are black ash, white oak, hickory, and maple trees.
3. It takes place in and around the town of Hudson.
4. The boy goes into town soon after his 9th birthday.
5. The boy is upset and embarrassed about being called a “bushwhacker” and being made fun of in town.
6. They carry them on long poles slung over their shoulders.

II. Matching

1. B
2. C
3. F
4. A
5. D
6. E

III. Sequencing

- 3, 5, 2, 1, 4

IV. Summarize (Answers will vary)

This is the story of a young boy who lives with his parents outside of the town of Hudson (which is in New York). The boy’s father and some of their neighbors weave baskets for a living and the boy likes to watch the men make them. Each year, when the shed becomes full of these handmade baskets, the boy’s father takes them into town. Usually the boy is not allowed to go into town with his father but finally, after he turns 9, the boy is invited to go with his father. He sees many exciting things in town and helps his father buy and carry supplies back home. While on their way home, the trip is ruined for the boy when some townspeople laugh and call him (and his father) “bushwhackers.”

When he returns home, the boy is no longer happy to watch the men weave baskets. He questions the tradition and his own future as a basket-maker. One day he becomes upset and goes into the shed and knocks down all the baskets that are in there. The boy’s neighbor, Big Joe, finds him and tells him to listen to the wind. One night the boy hears the wind call his name and he finally realizes that, when he gets older, he will follow the tradition of his father and he too will make baskets. So, the cycle begins again.

V. Basket Moon & Loyalty

1. The boy is very interested in watching basket-weaving. He likes it and tries it himself.
2. His attitude changes because he is made fun of in town and starts to see his father’s profession the way that others see it, in a negative way. It makes him feel embarrassed about basket-weaving.
3. Answers may vary. He probably was, and he probably felt much like his son did when he was mocked.
4. The boy has to tolerate the jokes and name-calling by the townspeople and will probably have to hear them every time he goes into Hudson.
5. Answers will vary.