

## Teaching News Is Elementary

### March 18, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

**Materials you will need for this lesson:** The Seattle Times e-Edition, pencil, sticky notes, paper, and computer with speakers.

**Article: “Where do you want to go?”**

**Page: Sports, C8**

**Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

#### Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Display word *Transportation*\*. Take two minutes to write down as many words as you can think of that relate to the word transportation. Write each word on one sticky note. With (a) partner(s), sort all of your combined sticky notes into categories and then give each category a name (for example: airplane, boat, and car might all fall under the category ‘Transportation with Motors’) — make sure you can explain why you chose the name you did. Discuss the reasoning for each of the category names.

#### Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it’s used in the sentence:

“Trains are fast and quiet, and they run both ways. Be sure to always look for the second train and only cross at **designated** crossings— wait until the gate comes up.”

**Designated:** assigned or officially labeled.

“Those trains share the tracks with Amtrak and **freight** trains.”

**Freight:** goods transported by truck, train, ship, or aircraft

“When a train is nearing a station, it blows its horn and crossing gates stop cars and **pedestrians**.”

**Pedestrians:** a person walking along a road or in a developed area

“They go as fast as cars only they can’t **swerve** – and it takes a long time for a train to stop.”

**Sswerve:** change or cause to change direction abruptly

“Stay behind the yellow tiles on the **platform** and hold on to your belongings so you don’t drop anything on the tracks. If you do drop something, leave it there! Find a station agent or security guard and ask for help **retrieving** it.”

**Platform:** a raised level surface on which people or things can stand

**Retrieving:** get or bring (something) back; regain possession of

### **Journal Writing Prompts:**

**“Link light rail makes it easy to get around Seattle, whether it’s to school, to soccer practice or just to hang out with friends.”**

Write a fictional story about a character who decides to take a train. Where are they going? What happens while they are on the train? How long does it take them? How do they make sure they are safe while traveling? **OR** Write about a time that you took a train somewhere and the steps you took to be safe.

### **Discussion Questions:**

**Watch the music video on the Sound Transit website about riding the train:**

<http://www.soundtransit.org/berailsafe>

What safety tips did you notice that were mentioned in the video and in the article? Why is important to be safe while riding the train? Pretend you had a ‘Safety’ category for the transportation categorizing activity, what kind of words would you put in it? How can you help other people know how to use the train safely?

### **Small Group Discussion and Activity:**

**“Just follow a few simple tips to stay safe and get where you need to go with no fuss.”**

Visit the Sound Transit website and view (or print off) the basics of train safety in pictures: [http://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/rider\\_guide/safety\\_education/201311\\_lepbrochure.pdf](http://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/rider_guide/safety_education/201311_lepbrochure.pdf). See if you can match each picture to the train safety tip that it is trying to show. Then, design your own set of “the basics of train safety in pictures” by drawing pictures to show what you think is most important about train safety.

**\* As an extension, challenge students to see how many words they can come up with using only the letters from the word *Transportation* or watch the videos at the given links from the article to learn how trains are built.**