

Teaching News Is Elementary

April 15, 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, and paper.

Article: “When I grow up”

Page: NW Jobs, F1

Date: Sunday, April 10, 2016

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Take a few minutes to write down as many jobs as you can think of. Which of these jobs would you want to have? Which of these would you not want to have? Why/why not?

Vocabulary:

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

“As a child, Lisa Dabek spent hours watching animals at the Bronx Zoo. Allergic to cats and dogs, she had a pet turtle. She **obtained** a Ph.D. in animal behavior and conservation biology from the University of Washington, and today, at 55, she's the director of the Woodland Park Zoo's Tree Kangaroo **Conservation** Program.”

Obtained: to get something, especially by asking for it, buying it, working for it, or producing it

Conservation: to keep something from running out — whether it's plants, animals, or resources.

“Others have **incorporated** youthful **pastimes** into adult careers. Emanuel Matthews, 26, has been playing video games his ‘whole life.’”

Incorporated: to include (something) as part of something else

Pastimes: a fun hobby or activity that you do to pass the time

“Some aren't selling comics or games — but making them. Shanon Lyon, 38, has been working with board games for 12 years, both for well-known brands such as Cranium and as a freelance game inventor. She enjoyed games as a child, but was well aware of their **pitfalls**.”

Pitfalls: danger or problem that is hidden or not obvious at first

“Working on games requires a lot creativity, problemsolving and **collaboration**.”

Collaboration: to work together

“The career also requires **fortitude**; even the simplest game has a development point when all seems lost.”

Fortitude: strength in the face of adversity or difficulty

“Lyon’s **zest** for her career is undeniable. “I love watching kids and families play in-progress games and then working hard to make the games better based on what I saw.”

Zest: a kind of zeal or enthusiasm

Journal Writing Prompts:

“Dabek is just one example of someone who didn’t abandon childhood dreams, but has instead found a way to make her youthful enthusiasm her career. Although there are grown-up duties as well, such as grant writing, donor meetings and report writing, her job is one her childhood self would approve of.”

Finish this sentence: When I grow up, I want to be a _____. Now write about what you think an average day would look like for someone with this career. What do they do? What responsibilities do they have?

Discussion Questions:

“‘When I was looking for a new job five years ago, I decided to look for something that I would be passionate about. I wanted to be part of the comics community and share that love with others,’ she says.

Of course, that doesn’t mean it’s always fun. ‘Like any job, it can have its frustrating or stressful moments,’ Lamb says. About what you’d expect — a crabby customer or too many tasks and not enough time.”

Out of the jobs in the article, which job would you want to have most and why? Did any of the jobs give you an idea for something you might want to do when you are older? Do you know anyone else with a cool job that you want to have? What kind of things are good about having a job? What might be hard about having a job? What kind of jobs do you think you would be good at? What kind of jobs would you not want to do as much? What kind of things do you think employers look for when they hire people for a job?

Small Group Discussion and Activity:

Look at some of the jobs advertisements (page F1 - F3) then on your own or with a partner write your own job advertisement for your dream job. Make sure to include everyday duties of your job, skills that will be needed in order to be successful in your job, why people should be interested in the job, and any other details that you think would be important to know about the job. Use exciting wording and think about other creative ways you can use to make sure you attract the right candidate!