DAY AND NIGHT

(Use a radio announcer voice) This is an emergency alert. There have been reports of mysterious disappearances in the low country area during the night. We advise you to move out west with the light of the sun.

Unsure of what would happen if they ignored the warning, the teacher loaded all of the kids on to the bus and started racing against the spinning of Earth’s axis to stay ahead of the sunset without any set destination.

As they fled, the devastation that came with the night could be seen from back of the back of the bus. Fires, chaos, and screams were all that were left when the dark covered the landscape behind them. They were losing in their race against the rotation of the Earth.

After being on the road for hours it seemed that they were a safe enough distance from the darkness to stop the bus to see if the news had any further information that would help explain what was going on.

The teacher told the children to stay on the bus where it was safe while he went into a hotel lobby to ask the bellhop at the front desk if there has been any update on these strange kidnappings.

Not even two minutes into the bellhop’s interrogation one of the students came in screaming “THE DARK IS COMING!”

Learning very little about what was in the darkness, the teacher rushed outside to get the bus as far west as they could but the bus wouldn’t start. The children were sent into a panic. The teacher tried again but still the bus wouldn’t start. He could see in the rearview mirror the chaos in the night creeping closer.

The teacher turns the key one final time. VROOM! With the bus cranked they all screeched off away from the dark. The race against the Earth’s rotation was on again.

As they were speeding off the teacher could here unsettled conversations from the children in the back.

“I saw it!”

“Nuh uh”

“There is no way!”

The teacher hushed the bus and asked Seth to come to the front of the bus.

“What did you see?” asked the teacher.
“Nothing,” Seth responded sheepishly.

“I heard you say you saw it! Now quit lying to me and tell me what you saw!”

“You’ll think I’m crazy.”

“I won’t I promise.”

“I saw what seemed to look like a person but his teeth were like nothing I have ever seen outside of the TV. It looked like a vampire,” Seth said while looking at his feet to hide his tears.

The teacher embraced Seth in an attempt to comfort him. “Don’t worry Seth. Vampires aren’t real.”

“I know what I saw! I told you that you wouldn’t believe me.”

The teacher could see how serious Seth was. “What if this actually was all because of vampires?” the teacher thought. There is only 24 hours in a day and no way they could run forever and what happens even if they did make it out west. Without a boat there was no way they could get further west than California.

He didn’t want the kids to lose hope even though all hope in him was already lost so he continued driving until he could drive no more. Once they passed the California state line he headed to the closest port he could find. There was one boat. They all got out of the bus and sprinted towards the boat.

The crew was holding off a mob of terrified people trying to save themselves. “This isn’t looking good,” the teacher thought but he still rushed the kids towards the boat. The teacher beckoned a crewmember that wasn’t busy holding off the mob.

The crewmember signaled for the other sailors to make a pathway for the kids to board the boat. All of them rushed aboard relieved that they were at least going to be temporarily out of the night for a little while longer.

Seth scurried around the boat to make sure that everyone made it on the boat but he couldn’t find the teacher. “Where is Mr. Harris?!” he asked the captain of the boat. The captain just looked down and didn’t answer. So Seth ran around asking everyone he could where the teacher was but no one seemed to know.

As the boat was pushing off the dock Seth ran to the back of the boat in a fit of desperation to find the teacher. There he saw Mr. Harris but the teacher wasn’t on the boat. He was still on the dock looking Seth dead in the eye.
“Stop!! Our teacher isn’t on the boat! We need to stop so he can get on,” Seth pleaded with the closest crewman he could.

“We are passed capacity kid. We could only take y’all on board because women and children are top priority”

Seth realizing that this will be the last time he will probably even see his teacher ran back to the back of the boat. “It will be ok Seth. Just remember that the Sun rises in the east and sets in the west all while the Earth rotates on it’s axis. As long as you stay in between the two you will always be in the light and safe from any dangers that come in the night,” Mr. Harris yelled so Seth could hear.

Seth stood there, tears in his eyes, as he saw his teacher consumed by the dark.
Activity:

**Day/Night**

4.E.3B.2 Construct explanations of how day and night result from Earth’s rotation on its axis.

It is essential for students to know that:

Earth rotates (spins) on its axis and completes one rotation in 24 hours.

Earth rotates from west to east, therefore, the Sun appears to rise in the east and set in the west.

Because of this rotation, only the side of Earth facing the Sun is lit and therefore experiences day; the side of Earth not facing the Sun experiences night.

**ACTIVITY**

http://eyeonthesky.org/lessonplans/05sun_daynight.html

Supplies:

- Blow-up globe
- Flashlight
- East and West cards for each student
- Paste on continents for each student
Assessment:

1. Which way does Earth rotate?
   East to west
   West to east
   None

2. How many hours are in a day?
   24
   12
   36
   8

3. Does the Sun move?
   Yes
   No

4. Where is day?
5. Where is night?
6. Where does the sun appear to rise?
   North
   South
   East
   West

7. Where does the sun appear to set?