



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Heather Beatty

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Critical thinking, Ants, Grasshoppers, Lessons, Summer, Winter

Lesson Description: During this lesson students will learn reading skills, vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension. The students will read the short passage individually. Then the teacher will reread the passage out loud and discuss it. Students then individually will complete the following questions.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

The Ants and the Grasshopper

by

Content: It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine. They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. They can wait for the warm weather in spring. The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat.

Grain is a kind of plant. People plant it and cut it and then they use it to make bread. The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it. They do not eat it right then. They save it because they need to be able to have food in the winter months when plants do not grow. This goes on all summer.

The ants work hard every day. They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home. Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work. They carry more than they need to eat every day. They carry grain they will eat in winter, too. They play sometimes, but most of the time they work.

The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer. They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. They say, We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. But the ants say, No, we have to work.

Soon it is winter, and the grasshoppers are cold. They are hungry, too. They do not have food to eat. Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter.

One day, a grasshopper came to see the ants and he was very hungry. Please, ants, could you help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! said the grasshopper.

The ants asked him, Why didnt you work in summer? We did. Remember, how you played while we worked? You made fun of us and said, All work and no play is no good. Well, now we have food and you are hungry.

The grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. I couldnt help but have fun. We had such a good time.

The ants said, We are sorry you have no food. We have a lot because we worked hard. You have none because you played. But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors. We want you to live, so we will help you now. But learn from us. Playing is a lot of fun. But you need to work to live.

The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too. You need to work if you want to eat. Next summer, he would work and play, too, just like the ants.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says, "So now they have grain to eat." what does the word "grain" mean?

- A: A season
- B: A plant
- C: A type of game
- D: A type of bug

Question: Please pick the correct sentence using the word "grain".

- A: The boys favorite time of year is grain.
- B: The weather was just right for the grain to grow.
- C: The children love to play grain outside.
- D: The grain crawled on the farmers leg.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of our short story said, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." what does "lovely" mean in this sentence?

- A: Strange
- B: Ugly
- C: Enjoyable
- D: Weird

Question: Please pick the correct sentence using the word "lovely".

- A: The children had a lovely day playing in the park; the weather was very nice.
- B: The boy was having a lovely day in time out after getting in trouble for not doing his homework.
- C: The mother was having a lovely time in traffic; she sat for 1 hour to get home.
- D: The teacher had a lovely day; all the students sneezing and coughing in class.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Neighbors **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "neighbor" mean in the sentence, "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors."?

- A: Workers at your job
- B: Bugs that collect food
- C: Ants that march around
- D: Friends that live near by

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "neighbor" correctly.

- A: My neighbors are very helpful when I need something.
- B: I know a bunch of neighbors in my classroom.
- C: All the neighbors waited in line at the store.
- D: The neighbors went to the doctors office.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story about the Grasshopper and the Ant, the author uses the word "Lesson". In the sentence, "The grasshopper had learned a lesson." what does the word "lesson" mean?

- A: Something useful about life
- B: A rule
- C: A joke
- D: How to work

Question: Choose the correct sentence bellow using the word "lesson".

- A: The boy was in trouble with the lesson.
- B: Today the lesson taught be how to tie my shoes.
- C: The lesson was running late to class.
- D: The clown told lessons to all the children.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: Please answer each discussion question by writing one paragraph. Include vocabulary words from the story in your answers.

1 - Lesson Learned

When the short story says The grasshopper had learned a lesson. what lesson did he learn?

2 - Grain in the Winter

Why didn't the ants and grasshopper collect grain during the winter?

3 - No time!

Why did the grasshopper say he didn't have the time to collect grain?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a paragraph short response on how you have to manage your time, like the grasshopper, at home to do homework and to play. Also, list some of the problems that happen if you do not allow enough time to do your homework and you spend most of your time playing.

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