



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Kathy Allen

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour

**Lesson Keywords:** Folktale, Reading, Writing, Lesson Plan

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to introduce the folktale called "How the Firefly Got Its Light" and to learn new vocabulary terms. The lesson includes four vocabulary questions to test the students' vocabulary skills, three discussion questions to analyze students' higher-thinking skills, and a writing question to allow students to practice writing skills and conveying their point of view.

### 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.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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## 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.

### How the Firefly Got Its Light

by

**Content:** This is a story based on an old folktale.?

This is a story about long ago. ?There was a little fly. ?It wanted to be special. ?The fly was?sad. ?It did not feel special. ?It looked at the bee and thought it was great. ?Look at how big it is. ?Hear it buzz. ?It looked at the butterfly and said, See how pretty. Look at the colors. ?Look at the?big wings. ?I am just like all the other flies.?

The fly stayed awake one night. ?It was worried. ?It was sad. ?All the other flies were?sleeping. ?A moth was awake. ?So was a mouse. ?They did not notice the fly. ?It was too small. ?It?was hard to see in the dark.?

The fly saw the stars. ?They were shining. ?I want to shine like that. That would be?special.?

The moon heard the fly. ?The moon said, Little fly. ?You can help me. ?If you do, I will help?you. ?I will make you shine.?

How can I help? ??

The moon said, You can be my friend. ?I am lonely at night. ?I come out when it is dark. ?Most animals are asleep. ?If you stay awake every night I will help you shine. ?Then you can be my?friend. ?

Yes, yes, the fly said. ?So the moon helped it. ?The moon told the fly the secret. ?The moon?told the fly how to shine. ??

The next night, the fly stayed awake. ?It used the secret. ?It was shining. ?On, off, it made its?body light. ?It looked like magic.?

Look, said the mouse. Look at that fly. ?How special. ?The mouse said, Id like to shine,?too. ?His mother said, NO! ?That would be dangerous. ?You know we need to be able to hide.?

The fly was very glad. ?The fly told the moon, I will always be your friend. ?When you?come out at night, I will be here. ?I will shine my light to welcome you. ?Then the fly went to?sleep. ?Finally. ?Now I have what I need.?

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## 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:** Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** At the beginning of this story, the author says that "this is a story based on an old folktale." What does the word "folktale" mean in this sentence?

- A: Made-up story
- B: New story
- C: Sad story
- D: Traditional story

**Question:** Which of the sentences below uses the word "folktale" correctly?

- A: People are folktales.
- B: My favorite folktale is about a princess and a frog.
- C: A folktale is a true story.
- D: Stories about presidents are folktales.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Special **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author wrote "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special. The fly was sad. It did not feel special." What does the word "special" mean in this sentence?

- A: The same
- B: One of a kind
- C: Boring
- D: Fun

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "special" correctly?

- A: The restaurant has a specials menu everyday.
- B: These are very special because they have been in the family for years.
- C: You have a special gift.
- D: Art, music, and P.E. are specials at school.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says "That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide." What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

- A: Safe
- B: Harmless
- C: Funny
- D: Risky

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: Walking on the sidewalk is dangerous.
- B: Jumping on the bed is very dangerous. You could hurt yourself.
- C: Sitting in your chair is dangerous.
- D: It is dangerous to turn your homework in on time.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Shining **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author wrote that "the fly saw the stars. They were shining." What does the word "shining" mean in this sentence?

- A: Normal
- B: Dull
- C: Bright
- D: Dark

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "shining" correctly?

- A: The sun was shining through the window.
- B: He was a knight in shining armor.
- C: I had to clean the mirror until it was shining.
- D: Her eyes were shining with excitement when she got to school.

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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - How does the fly feel?

How does the fly's feeling change from the beginning of the story to the end? How did the fly feel at the beginning? Use details from the story.

### 2 - The mice

In the story, the author writes that The mouse said, 'I'd like to shine too.' His mother said, 'NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide.'

Why is it important for mice to be able to hide? Why would it be dangerous to shine at night?

### 3 - The moon is lonely

In the story, the author writes that The moon said, 'You can be my friend. I am lonely at night. I come out when it's dark. Most animals are asleep. If you stay awake every night I will help you shine.'

Why is it hard for the moon to make friends? How do you think the moon feels about not having any friends?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You should write 5-7 sentences about what you think the moral of the story is. What do you think the lesson of the story was? Do you think the fly and the moon will be friends forever?

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