

=====

A Lesson on Nature's Violet Children

by Magen Przybylski

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: vocabulary figurative language

Lesson Description: A Lesson on Nature's Violet Children

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

=====

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

=====

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

=====

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

=====

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.

Nature's Violet Children

by

Content: Once on a sunny hill in the woods grew many violets. They had slept quietly through the long winter, tucked up snug and warm in the soft, white snow-blankets that King Winter had sent Mother Nature for her flower babies. Jack Frost had gone pouting over the hills because the little sunbeams would not play with him, and they spoiled his fancy pictures. The tiny raindrops knocked at the door of Mother Nature's great, brown house; and the birds called to the flowers to wake up.

The violets raised their strong, hardy leaves, lifted up their dainty heads, and were glad because spring had come again. While they were so happy, a little girl named Ruth came to the woods in search of wild flowers. How pretty those violets are, she said. I wish I could stay and watch the buds open, but I will take some of them with me and keep them in water, and they will remind me of this sunny hill. Perhaps they will blossom.

Then the violets were frightened and whispered, Please don't take us! Ruth did not hear them. She pulled stem after stem until her small hands were full.

When Ruth got home, she put the buds into a vase of water, and set them in an open window where they could see the blue sky and feel the kisses of the sunbeams. But, the poor little violets drooped for a time, they were so homesick, and whispered to each other, Let us give up and die! A beautiful canary in a cage over their heads sang Cheer up! Chirrup! but they would not listen to him at first. By and by, they said, Why do you sing that to us? How can we be happy away from our beautiful home?

Still the bird sang, Cheer up! Chirrup! The sun is smiling at you and I am singing to you. We are trying to make you glad. How nice it would be if you would only blossom and make some one happy instead of hanging your heads and trying to die. Do you think I like to be shut up in here? If someone would leave the door of my cage open, I would spread my wings and fly out of the window, far away to the green woods and the blue sky. But, while I am here, I may as well sing and be glad. Cheer up! Chirrup!

Perhaps he is right, said the buds, and they lifted up their heads and began to grow. One bright spring morning Mother Nature passed by the window and gave them each a lovely violet cap. Then they were glad, and Ruth was happy, too, because her buds had blossomed.

The cheery canary sang his sweetest song to them. The whole day was bright because Mother Nature's little violet children had tried their best to be happy and so had made others happy, too. As the great red sun went down into the west, he heard the happy bird still singing, Cheer up! Chirrup!

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: hardy **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "The violets raised their strong, hardy leaves..." What does the word "hardy" mean in this sentence?

- A: green
- B: thin
- C: strong
- D: long

Question: which one of the following sentences uses the word "hardy" correctly?

- A: The sheet of paper was very hardy and ripped very easily.
- B: Tom was a very hardy man who could lift more wieght than most men he knew.
- C: Jim was a frail and hardy old man.
- D: The vegetable broth made for thin and hardy soup.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: search **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "While they were so happy, a little girl named Ruth came to the woods in search of wild flowers." What does the word "search" mean in this sentence?

- A: to lose
- B: to find
- C: to think
- D: to look for

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "search" correctly?

- A: Dave had his school supplies very organized so he always had to search for things.
- B: The main character in the play had a spotlight on him so the audience would have to search for him.
- C: When Kim lost her keys she had to search everywhere to find them.
- D: The watermelon was in plain view on the table so Fran had to search for it.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: drooped **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "But, the poor little violets drooped for a time, they were so homesick, and whispered to each other, 'Let us give up and die!'" What does the word "drooped" mean in this sentence?

- A: sagged
- B: stood up
- C: fell over
- D: shook

Question: Which sentence uses the word "drooped" correctly?

- A: The statue drooped and stood tall in the park.
- B: Mikes face drooped into a frown when he heard about his bad grades.
- C: After hearing the good news Karen's face drooped.
- D: The flowers drooped and perked up after I watered them.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: blossomed **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "One bright spring morning Mother Nature passed by the window and gave them each a lovely violet cap. Then they were glad, and Ruth was happy, too, because her buds had blossomed." What does the word "blossomed" mean in this sentence?

- A: to bloom
- B: to die
- C: to wither
- D: to fall.

Question: Which sentence uses the word "blossom" correctly?

- A: Wilsons car would not blossom with out gas.
- B: In the winter, all the plants get covered in snow and so they blossom.
- C: I could not wait for my frog to blossom.
- D: Every spring the flowers blossom.

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 - " They had slept quietly through the long winter,...

?They had slept quietly through the long winter, tucked up snug and warm in the soft, white snow-blankets that King Winter had sent Mother Nature for her flower babies.? What does the author mean in this sentence?

2 - But, the poor little violets drooped for a time...

But, the?poor little violets drooped for a time, they were so homesick, and whispered to each other, 'Let us give up and die!' How are the flowers feeling in this sentence? Explain why.

3 - If someone would leave the door of my cage open...

'If someone would leave the door of my cage open, I would spread?my wings and fly out of the window, far away to the green woods and the blue sky. But,?while I am here, I may as well sing and be glad. Cheer up! Chirrup!' What message is the bird trying to give to the flowers in this sentence?

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on the figurative language used in this story. Make sure to provide specific examples.

=====