



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Diana Bryson

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, vocab, critical thinking, insects, ants, grasshopper, seasons

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students will use comprehension skills including critical thinking, vocabulary to individually read this passage. After students take time to read it they will go over the story with the teacher and then individually complete this assessment.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.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.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.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.

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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: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: When the author uses the word "grain" in the second paragraph what do they define it as?

- A: a vegetable
- B: a fruit
- C: a type of cat
- D: a kind of plant

Question: In which of these sentences is the word grain used correctly?

- A: The ants used the grain to construct their homes.
 - B: It was very grainy outside.
 - C: The children covered themselves in grain.
 - D: The ants saved grain throughout the summer so they could eat during the winter.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Wintertime **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story the author mentions "wintertime," what is the weather like according to the author

- A: Cold
- B: Hot
- C: Sunny
- D: Cloudy

Question: Choose the correct use of the word "wintertime" in a sentence.

- A: Ants love the wintertime because there is so much grain to be eaten
 - B: Grasshoppers are known for prepping for winter because they collect grain all year to prepare for it
 - C: The wintertime is the warmest time of the year when the ants and grasshoppers both like to play outside
 - D: The ants worked through the summer to prepare for the cold winter when food is hard to find
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When the author uses the word "neighbors" in the sentence "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors" what do they mean?

- A: Those who live next to you
- B: Teachers
- C: Garbage collectors
- D: Classmates

Question: Use the word "neighbor" correctly.

- A: The neighbors crowded the gates of the castle
 - B: The ants were helpful neighbors to the grasshoppers
 - C: Neighbors were taking over the ant hill
 - D: The neighbors were not able to cook enough food for the party
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Work **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the author mean when they use the word "work" in the sentence "No, we have to work."

- A: The ants have to play outside
- B: The ants had to go to class
- C: The ants has to work collect grain
- D: The ants have to clean their rooms

Question: Use the word "work" correctly in a sentence

- A: The ants worked hard all summer to prepare for winter
 - B: The grasshoppers went to work
 - C: The wheels on the grasshoppers bike work
 - D: The grasshoppers were known for getting a lot of work done
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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Hard Work

Why was it important for the grasshoppers and crickets to work hard all summer??

2 - All play and no work

Explain what happened when the grasshoppers fell behind in their work because they were playing too much.

3 - Hard work

How did working hard prepare the ants for winter?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a paragraph explaining the importance of working hard and managing your time correctly. Compare and contrast the amount of work the ants and grasshoppers did and how that affected their lives' during the winter.?

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