



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Danielle Greaux

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, A Moral Story For Children, The Ants and the Grasshopper

Lesson Description: This lesson will not only allow third grade students to practice their reading and writing abilities, but will also help them comprehend the significance of the overall message being conveyed in a story. After reading "The Ants and the Grasshopper", students will be answering multiple choice vocabulary questions, discussion activity questions, and an individual writing activity. These questions will make students analyze meanings and think unconventionally as well.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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: Spring **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the short story "The Ants and the Grasshopper" stated, "They can wait for the warm weather in spring." What does the word "spring" mean in this sentence?

- A: To leap or jump
- B: The season after winter
- C: To bounce up and down
- D: A coil used in a car to give slack

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "spring" correctly?

- A: My mom screamed at me for jumping on the bed, as the springs began to break below me.
- B: The Easter Bunny springs off of his tippy toes to hop.
- C: Weeki Wachee Springs in Florida produces millions of gallons of water a day!
- D: Ms. Joan said this spring will be extremely rainy and cold.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Fine **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine." What does the word "fine" mean in this sentence?

- A: High quality
- B: Thin or wispy
- C: Pleasant or okay
- D: Well-made

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "fine" correctly?

- A: Carrie acted just fine after her pet goldfish passed away.
- B: Her hair was very fine and brittle.
- C: The cotton tablecloth was so fine that it was almost completely see through.
- D: The speeding fine was over \$200.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Learned a lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author from the story "The Ants and the Grasshopper" said, "The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too." What does the phrase "learned a lesson" mean in this sentence?

- A: Understanding a parent or teacher
- B: Understanding a lecture in school
- C: Understanding a mistake at a cost
- D: Understanding the importance of rules

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "learning a lesson" correctly?

- A: Jill was learning a lesson in her science class and it was quite challenging.
- B: The young boy was learning a lesson on how to throw the football correctly from his coach.
- C: Megan learned a lesson when she received a ticket for speeding on the highway.
- D: Tony learned a lesson on how to ride a bike without training wheels for the first time this past Tuesday.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Good, kind neighbors **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: Someone that lives very near to you
- B: A generous best friend
- C: A type of insect
- D: A type of grain

Question: Which sentence below uses the phrase "good, kind neighbors" correctly?

- A: The ants marched quickly, they were a species of good, kind neighbors.
- B: Ever since we moved next store to Tom and Sue, they have been good, kind neighbors.
- C: Good, kind neighbors grew in the fields of Alabama.
- D: I live in Washington, while my boyfriend lives in Texas. We are good, kind neighbors.

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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 - Explain why the Grasshopper is so hungry,...

The Grasshopper said, Please, ants, could you please help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! Explain why the Grasshopper is so hungry, while the ants have a lot of food.

2 - Draw a venn diagram, then compare and contrast...

Draw a venn diagram, then compare and contrast the Ants and the Grasshopper. Use context clues from the text. Be specific.

3 - After reading the short story "The Ants and the Grasshopper",...

After reading the short story The Ants and the Grasshopper, what was the author's purpose in writing this narrative? Think outside the box!

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: After reading the short story "The Ants and the Grasshopper," you saw the importance of listening to others who have experienced a similar, tough situation in their past. In two paragraphs (four-five sentences in each paragraph), write the learning lesson the Grasshopper learned from the Ants, then write a time when you yourself learned a lesson from your parent(s) or elder. Be specific and use details.

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