



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Casey Maynard

**Grade Level:** Grade 2

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Firefly, Folktale

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use the reading and writing habits they've been practicing on a regular basis to learn from an old folktale about how a firefly got its light. By reading the passage and focusing on how persistence can get you what you want in life, and to keep trying and never give up. The Students will learn how to understand context and understand the context to answer questions. This will allow them to discuss the text that they have understood from the text. Finally the students will be able to explain the purpose of the folktale.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2: Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6: Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

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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:** Lonely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the text the Author said The moon said, "You can be my friend. I am lonely at night. I come out when it is dark. What is the meaning of the word lonely?"

**A:** Ordinary

**B:** Best

**C:** Sad

**D:** Happy

**Question:** What sentence below uses the word "lonely" correctly?

**A:** Jen is lonely about going to the park.

**B:** Jen is lonely at home alone.

**C:** Jen is lonely about the present she got.

**D:** Jen is going to the pool lonely.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Shining **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the passage the author says The fly saw the stars. They were shining. "I want to shine like that. That would be special." What does the word shining mean?

**A:** Bright

**B:** Dim

**C:** Happy

**D:** Joy

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

**A:** The elephant is shining.

**B:** The house is shining a black color.

**C:** The sun is shining bright today.

**D:** The child is shining in the shower.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Secret **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the passage the author says The next night, the fly stayed awake. It used the secret. What is the correct use of the word secret?

**A:** Open

**B:** Visible

**C:** Public

**D:** Not Known

**Question:** Which sentence below does not use the word "secret" correctly.

**A:** There is a secret meeting tonight.

**B:** Tell Tim my secret because I do not want him to know

**C:** Please keep this a secret from Josh.

**D:** He is the most secret man in class.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "His mother said, "NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide." What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

**A:** Not Safe

**B:** Obvious

**C:** Special

**D:** Shine

**Question:** Which Sentence below uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

**A:** Do not jump off the bridge it is dangerous.

**B:** The blanket is dangerous.

**C:** Jon had a dangerous time at the school.

**D:** Jim went to the dangerous play.

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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 - What is so unique about the little firefly?

At the end of the story the author says, 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. Explain why he is unique about the firefly in the end?

### 2 - How is the story organized?

Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

### 3 - Describe the different aspects of the characters?

Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud. Use the main charater, the mom and the moon as talking points.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 2-3 paragraphs of your response and the meaning of this folktale. How were you able to tell what the purpose of this story was? How did the moon help the firefly get his light? Make sure to provide specific examples from the text.

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