



## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Simone Smith

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Grasshopper, Ants, Critical thinking, Vocabulary, Reading

**Lesson Description:** The students will embark on their reading journey with the story of "The Ants and the Grasshopper", they will learn new vocabulary along with new ways to use it. The students will answer comprehension questions from the story to ensure they get the correct skills and lessons that come from it. The lesson finishes with a short essay to help the students maintain the information they have acquired throughout this fun lesson.

### 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.3.4: 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.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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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.

### 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:** Wintertime **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** From the first sentence of the passage, the author says, "It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine." What does the word "wintertime" mean in this sentence?

- A: The season is Spring, the plants are growing
- B: The season is Fall, the weather is cooling down
- C: The season is Winter, no plants are growing, it is very cold outside
- D: The season is Summer, it is very hot outside

**Question:** Choose the correct use of the word "wintertime".

- A: With the weather reaching 97 degrees, it is beginning to feel like wintertime.
  - B: Going outside in shorts and a tank top would be perfect in the wintertime!
  - C: Playing in the sprinklers outside is a fun activity during the wintertime.
  - D: With the extreme cold, coat, pants, and boots, are needed to go out in the wintertime.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author says, "The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat" in the story. What is the meaning of "grain" in the sentence?

- A: Dirt
- B: A pile of rocks
- C: A type of plant
- D: Leaves

**Question:** What is the correct use of the word "grain" in a sentence?

- A: Grain was mixed into the dough of the baker to finish the recipe.
  - B: The boys tracked grain in the house with their shoes.
  - C: The farmer used grain to plant his flowers in.
  - D: Grain is an excellent type of clothing.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Learned **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What is the meaning of "learned" in this sentence, The grasshopper had learned a lesson."?

- A: To forget the lesson
- B: To understand the lesson
- C: To read about the lesson
- D: To talk about the lesson to others.

**Question:** How would you use "learned" correctly in a sentence?

- A: A man said he had learned writing.
  - B: The girl said she learned her lunch today.
  - C: The student learned his water.
  - D: The boy learned how to tie his shoes.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Rush **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the reading of "The Ants and The Grasshopper", the author says, "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." What does the word "rush" mean in this context?

- A: To slow down
- B: To move fast
- C: To go average speed
- D: To not move

**Question:** Which sentence shows the correct use of the word "rush"?

- A: The boy was in a rush to get to his favorite arcade as they would be closing soon.
  - B: The girl should go slow to be in a rush.
  - C: If you are in a rush you should take a break.
  - D: The girl rushed her drink before continuing to shop.
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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 - Grasshopper Goes Hungry

Why did the grasshopper go hungry once the wintertime arrived? How did the ants respond to his issue??

### 2 - Lesson For The Grasshopper

What should the grasshopper have done in the Summer instead of playing? Based on the reading, do you think he could play AND collect enough grain to eat in the Winter??

### 3 - Ant or Grasshopper?

Which insect do you think you are? Do you get your work done ahead of time like the Ants, or do you wait last minute like the Grasshopper??

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### Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** The story ended with the grasshopper learning his lesson and agreeing to balance his play and preparation for Winter, just like the Ants. Please write 2 full paragraphs on how the Grasshopper could do this, or how the Ants and Grasshoppers could work together to fulfill their goal to be prepared for Wintertime while using vocabulary from the lesson.

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