



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Tristan Norby

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Fly, Moon, Critical Thinking, Reading, and Vocabulary

**Lesson Description:** The goal for this lesson is to have the students use their Critical thinking skills. The lesson is a short story about how a Firefly got its light, but though it is a short story the student have a better opportunity to use their minds on how scenes happen in the story. The students are able to discuss in small groups on how certain parts of the story happened and they are able to learn new vocabulary words.

### 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.

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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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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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.

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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.

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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

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**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:** Special **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The Author in the story said "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special." What does the word "Special" mean in this sentence?

- A: Ordinary
- B: Different
- C: Normal
- D: Same

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

- A: The puppy was special because he had blue eyes and the other puppies had brown eyes.
- B: Cody took special care, when taking care of his grandpa.
- C: Brian got special permission to spend some time at the library.
- D: My sister had a special brush that no one was allowed to use, but her.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Lonely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "lonely" mean in this sentence, "You can be my friend. I am Lonely at night."?

- A: Happy because he or she has friends
- B: Popular
- C: Sad because he or she has no friends
- D: Crowded

**Question:** How can you use "lonely" in the short story correctly in a sentence?

- A: Brad was a lonely child at the age of seven.
- B: The bear was lonely in the forest.
- C: Susan stared into the pool, remembering a lonely childhood.
- D: I hope the cat is lonely and happy.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the short story, What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence, "That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide."?

- A: Not safe
- B: Scary
- C: Gentle
- D: Safe

**Question:** Choose the correct sentence using the word "dangerous".

- A: The neighborhood was full of dangerous things.
- B: The cat in a dangerous house.
- C: Playing with scissors is very dangerous.
- D: The rock looked dangerous to climb up.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Shine **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in the story says "I want to shine like that. That would be special." What does the word "shine" mean in this sentence?

- A: gloomy
- B: glitter
- C: lightless
- D: To give out a bright light

**Question:** Pick the best sentence below that uses the "shine" correctly.

- A: Shine bright like a diamond.
- B: The shine of the sun hurts my eyes.
- C: My cat "shine," is so cute.
- D: Shine the flashlight over here I think I dropped my keys.

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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 - Special Little Fly

Why did the Little Fly want to be special in this short story??

### 2 - Dangerous for The Baby Mouse

The mouse said, I'd like to shine, too. His mother said, NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide. What do you think the mother mouse ment when she told the baby mouse that it would be dangerous if he shined too??

### 3 - The Lonely Moon

In the short story on How the Firefly Got Its Light why did the moon feel lonely at night??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write a 400 words essay on the short story, How the Firefly Got Its Light. What do you think?the moon's secret to how to get the fly to shine? What did the fly have to do for the moon to give the fly it's secret? Make sure to use examples from the story and try to use two or three of the vocabulary words from the story.?

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