



## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Tiffany Foti

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Discussion, Writing, The Ants and the Grasshopper

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to provide students with an opportunity to utilize their reading and writing skills to answer questions regarding the author's purpose, vocabulary, and the moral of the story. Students will be reading "The Ants and the Grasshopper" for understanding while answering discussion questions about the text.

### 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.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

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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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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).

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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:** grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows." What does the word "grain" mean in this sentence?

**A:** a kind of plant that ant's eat

**B:** the ant's home

**C:** a lesson learned

**D:** a game the ants play

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

**A:** The ant is going to play grain.

**B:** The ant is looking for grain to bring home to his family for dinner.

**C:** Grain is my favorite game.

**D:** Winter is the best time for living in grain.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." What does the word "lovely" mean in this sentence?

**A:** ugly

**B:** boring

**C:** beautiful

**D:** sad

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

**A:** Not having any food in the winter is lovely.

**B:** Carrying heavy grain on my back feels lovely.

**C:** The backyard is lovely because it is dirty and cold.

**D:** The plants look lovely today.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** grasshopper **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer." What does the word "grasshopper" mean in this sentence?

**A:** a plant-eating insect

**B:** a kind of plant that ants eat

**C:** an ant's shelter

**D:** a source of heat

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

**A:** The ants like to eat the grasshopper.

**B:** The grasshopper has no food to eat in the winter.

**C:** The ants live in the grasshopper.

**D:** The grasshopper meows as it snuggles its owner.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** neighbors **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors." What does the word "neighbors" mean in this sentence?

**A:** the ant's enemy

**B:** a type of plant

**C:** someone living nearby

**D:** a game the ant's play

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

**A:** Neighbor is my favorite season.

**B:** The ant is looking for a neighbor to eat.

**C:** Neighbor is my favorite game.

**D:** The grasshopper is the ant's neighbor.

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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 - Why does the ant say "But you need to work to live?"

The ant says, But you need to work to live. Explain what is meant by this sentence.

### 2 - Author's purpose

What was the author's purpose in writing this story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

### 3 - Grasshopper's food

Why didn't the grasshoppers have any food in the winter??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** In your opinion, should the ants have given the grasshoppers food for the winter? Explain why or why not. What would have happened if the ants didn't share their food with the grasshoppers? In 2-3 paragraphs, write an essay answering the questions. Make sure to provide specific examples from the story in your answer.

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