



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Emily Geier

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Essay, Vocabulary, Discussion

Lesson Description: Third grade level lesson plan focusing on literature and English skills.

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.RI.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.RI.3.8: Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

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: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat." using context clues from the sentence, what does the word "grain" mean?

- A: A book.
- B: A type of plant to eat.
- C: A movie.
- D: An animal.

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

- A: The farmer gathered all the grain to make bread.
- B: His hat is very grain.
- C: This smoothie makes me feel grain.
- D: How did the grain go?

Q: 2 WordPhrase: played **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "We did. Remember, how you played while we worked?" what does the word "played" mean?

- A: Had fun.
- B: Slept.
- C: Did homework.
- D: Stood still.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "played" correctly?

- A: The television show played last weekend.
- B: The kids played outside in the rain.
- C: The alligator watched a play.
- D: The radio played my favorite song.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 2

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?

- A: Doctors
- B: Someone who lives next door or close to you
- C: Teachers
- D: Garbage trucks

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "\"neighbors\" correctly?

- A: My neighbor is an old lady with three dogs.
- B: I am neighbors about tomorrow's test.
- C: My phone neighbors when it's on low battery.
- D: My feet need new neighbors.

Q: 4 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?

- A: Bad
- B: Sad
- C: Enjoyable
- D: Disgusting

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

- A: I am sitting outside doing my homework because the weather is so lovely.
- B: I am sick in bed with a lovely cold.
- C: The smell was so lovely in the apartment, that I almost threw up.
- D: I accidently spilled my tea and made a lovely mess.

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 the relationship between the ants and the grasshoppers?

At the end of the story, the ants do what for the grasshoppers and why?

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2 - How does the grasshopper change from the beginning to the end of the story?

Write a paragraph on what the grasshopper was like in the beginning of the story to the end? Why do you think the grasshoppers changed?

3 - Why do the ants have food in the winter?

Write a paragraph explaining why the ants have food in the winter and the grasshoppers do not?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on the the benefits and consequences of the ants busy schedule, all work and no play. Make sure to provide specific details from the passage to back up your thoughts.

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