



A Lesson on The Lion and the Spider by Kristen Fritz

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, moral, The Lion and the Spider

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to allow students to utilize the reading and writing skills they have mastered up to this point. They will read the passage and answer the questions to the best of their ability. To successfully complete the lesson, students will need to reread the passage to fully understand the point of view of the spider and lion, as well as the moral of the story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3d: Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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 Lion and the Spider

by

Content: It was a sunny day in the grassland. The lion had slept well. It was fierce when it hunted. But today it was not hungry yet. It would hunt for food later in the day. Right now, all it wanted to do was relax. It stretched out and watched the grass.

Then it noticed a spider. The spider was climbing on a plant. Then the spider jumped to the next plant and left a string between them. It was making a web. The lion watched for a while. How clever you are, it said to the spider. How did you learn to do that?

The spider said, My mother showed me how to do this. I learned from her. And I have taught my children how to make webs.

The lion watched a while longer. Then it asked the spider, But why do you do that when you could just grab your food, the way I do?

I am just a small animal. I cannot run fast. So I do not eat insects that run. I cannot fly. I eat flies. So with my web I can catch them.

The lion said, Could you make me a web that could catch an animal for me to eat? Then I would not have to run after them either?

The spider thought about that. At first she thought the lion was joking. But he was not.

I cant do that, she said. My web can catch a fly. But it could not catch a big animal. And you could not live by eating flies.

Just then a fly flew into the spiders web. She went to get it. She wrapped it up for her children. Then she went back to spinning more of the web.

The lion was very selfish. It was jealous of the spider. It did not have to work hard for its food. And it would not help him get his food. So it slapped at the spider web and broke it. But the spider jumped onto the lions back. And it bit the lion.

Now you will remember me, said the spider as she hopped off and into the grass. Think before you are mean to another animal. We are all special. And some of us may be small but very smart.

The lion tried to scratch its back but could not reach the spider bite. It itched for days. The lion remembered the smart spider for a long time.

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: clever **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The lion in the story says to the spider, "How clever you are,"..."How did you learn to do that?". What does the word "clever" mean in this sentence?

A: unskilled

B: foolish

C: smart

D: inventive

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

A: That clever rabbit always gets caught by the fox.

B: The clever students were able to put the train together with ease.

C: Only clever people tell lies.

D: To fix the loose part on his car, the man used a clever to tighten it back up.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: selfish **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "The lion was very selfish." What does the word "selfish" mean in this sentence?

A: generous

B: fish-like

C: self-centered

D: mean

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

A: The selfish child wanted to keep all the candy for themselves and not share with any of their friends.

B: Shelby was always thinking of others, making her a very selfish person.

C: This weekend, we went on the boat to catch selfish.

D: If you want to help others, you are being selfish.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: web **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says, "Then the spider jumped to the next plant and left a string between them. It was making a web." What does the word "web" mean in this sentence?

A: series of knots

B: a long maze

C: the area between ducks feet

D: fine threads used to catch prey

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

A: The spider constructed a strong web that caught many flies.

B: To find the answer to the difficult question, Mark searched the web.

C: The duck has webbed feet, making swimming easier for the animal.

D: The teacher used the web to create a worksheet for her students.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: grassland **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author begins the passage by saying, "It was a sunny day in the grassland." What does the word "grassland" mean in the sentence?

A: open land that people build on

B: grassy area for grazing

C: land that has no grass

D: place where football games are played

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

A: Getting stains out of my grassland uniform is difficult.

B: The fishing trip to the grassland did not go as well as planned.

C: The animals in the grasslands hunted for their next meal.

D: My new house has a great grassland area for me to play in.

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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 happened when the lion first noticed the spider?

The lion's curiosity is peaked when the spider arrives in the grassland. Explain their initial interaction with one another.?

2 - Can all animals create webs?

The spider in the story creates webs to catch its prey. Can all animals create webs??

3 - What is the lesson learned?

What is the author's purpose for writing this story? Is there a lesson learned??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Has there ever been a time that someone completed a task in a different way from what you usually do? Think about a time that a new way of doing something was shown to you. For example, the lion and the spider both had unique ways of catching their prey. They both have a similar task of catching prey to eat but used unique ways to carry out the task. Tell me about a time something like this has happened to you.?

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