



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Meghan Fletcher

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: ants, grasshoppers, writing, reading, hard-work

Lesson Description: A reading and writing lesson that discusses hard work in a fun way that makes children understand the lesson of working hard more clearly.

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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.

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 phrase, "The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat." What does the word grain mean in this sentence?

- A: A type of game
- B: A type of plant
- C: Piles of sticks
- D: Water and sand mixed

Question: What sentence below uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A: There isn't a grain of truth in what he says.
- B: The farmer harvested grain and baked bread.
- C: The men started a nice warm fire with grain.
- D: The girls tracked in grain from the farm.

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

Question: In the story about the Grasshopper and the Ant, the author uses the word "lovely". The sentence, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." What does the word "lovely" mean?

- A: Strange
- B: Unique
- C: Beautiful
- D: Horrible

Question: Choose the sentence that best uses the word "lovely" correctly.

- A: I had a lovely day with my family at the beach.
- B: I think its lovely going to the dentist office.
- C: My writing assignment was lovely, I think I got a bad grade.
- D: Today was just a horrible lovely day; everything went wrong!

Q: 3 WordPhrase: rush **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "rush" mean in this sentence: "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." ?

- A: To stop what you are doing
- B: To go very slowly
- C: To brush everything off
- D: To move quickly

Question: Pick the sentence correctly using the word "rush".

- A: Mark patiently rushed through his chapter book.
- B: She rushed off all the snow that was on her jacket.
- C: Mary rushed out the door to see of the dog was okay.
- D: The sound of waves rushing the shore.

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

Question: The story states, "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors." What does the word "neighbor" mean in the sentence?

- A: Strangers
- B: Teammates
- C: Friends
- D: Classmate

Question: Pick the sentence correctly using the word "neighbor".

- A: My neighbor is so helpful to watch the house when we go away for vacation.
- B: There are two neighbors behind me in line.
- C: My neighbors and I finished an assignment together.
- D: Three neighbors were very mean to me in practice.

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 - Which insect are you?

In the story about the Grasshopper and the Ant, pretend that the grain is actually homework. Are you more of a grasshopper when it comes to working on homework or are you more like the hard working ant? Explain why.?

2 - Moral of Story

What do you think is the moral of the story and explain why you think this.?

3 - Should the Ants have helped?

Do you think the ants should have helped the grasshopper when he was hungry even though he didn't prepare for the wintertime? Why or why not?

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For this writing assignment, write about why working hard is important... Make sure to include examples from the story that help to prove your point.

=====