



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Mary Smith

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: The Elves and the Shoemaker, vocabulary activity, discussion activity, essay activity.

Lesson Description: In this lesson students will put their reading and writing skills to work by reading and re-reading the story to better understand the meaning of the story as well as to enhance their vocabulary by answering correct meaning and usage of the word questions. Through discussion with peers, students will be able to delve deeper into thought provoking questions. Students will also need to reflect on their own personal experiences to compare major themes in this story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9: Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.6: Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1a: Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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 Elves and the Shoemaker

by

Content: Once upon a time there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor. He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife. At last there came a day when he had nothing left but one piece of leather, big enough to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes, ready to stitch, and left them on the bench; then he said his prayers and went to bed, trusting that he could finish the shoes the next day and sell them.

Bright and early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench. There lay a pair of shoes, beautifully made, and the leather was gone! There was no sign of anyone having been there. The shoemaker and his wife did not know what to make of it. But the first customer who came was so pleased with the beautiful shoes that he bought them, and paid so much that the shoemaker was able to buy leather enough for two pairs.

Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning. But when morning came, two pairs of shoes lay on the bench, most beautifully made, and no sign of anyone who had been there. It was a puzzle. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money.

Once more he cut out the shoes and left them on the bench. And in the morning all four pairs were made.

It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people. But they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room.

Just as the clock struck twelve, the door opened softly and two tiny elves came dancing into the room, hopped on to the bench, and began to put the pieces together. They were quiet, but they had wee little scissors and hammers and thread. Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work. No one ever worked so fast as they. In almost no time all the shoes were stitched and finished. Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window.

The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?

I should like to make them some pretty clothes, said the wife.

I will make the shoes if you will make the coats, said her husband.

That very day they commenced their task. The wife cut out two tiny, tiny coats of green, two little pairs of trousers, of white, two bits of caps, bright red, and her husband made two little pairs of shoes with long, pointed toes. They made the clothes as dainty as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons. By Christmas time, they were finished.

On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker cleaned his bench, and on it, instead of leather, he laid the two sets of clothes. Then he and his wife hid away as before, to watch.

Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in. They hopped upon the bench; but when they saw the little clothes there, they laughed and danced for joy. Each one caught up his little coat and things and began to put them on. They were so happy. Then, when the clock struck two, they left smiling.

They never came back any more, but from that day they gave the shoemaker and his wife good luck, so that they never needed any more help.

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: Prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the story says "It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people". What does the word prosperous mean in this sentence?

A: To have plenty of money.

B: To be poor.

C: To become angry.

D: To become sad.

Question: Which sentence listed below correctly uses the word "prosperous"?

A: We had no money because we were very prosperous.

B: After we won the money from the contest we became very prosperous.

C: I am feeling prosperous today because I have a tummy ache.

D: Ouch, I think I just stepped on a prosperous!

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Promptly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author states, "promptly at midnight, the little elves came in". What does the word "promptly" mean in this sentence?

A: Quickly

B: Exactly

C: Slowly

D: Loudly

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "promptly" correctly?

A: We arrived to the party promptly at two o'clock when it was to begin.

B: I was running so promptly I tripped over my own feet.

C: You sound so promptly when you speak that way.

D: I promptly hit my head on that table.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Whisked away **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says that "Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window". What does the author mean by the phrase "whisked away" in this sentence?

A: Went away quickly.

B: To stir fast with a whisk.

C: To sing loudly.

D: To move very slowly.

Question: Which sentence uses the phrase "whisked away" correctly?

A: I whisked away the eggs to make an omelet for breakfast.

B: My mom whisked away the importance of taking my vitamins.

C: The groom whisked away the bride to their honeymoon.

D: Sandy was so mad at Daniel she whisked away the ball at him and almost hit him.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Wee **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says that "They were quite, but they had wee little scissors and hammers and thread". What does the author mean by the word "wee" in this sentence?

A: Large.

B: Excited.

C: Small.

D: Bright .

Question: Which sentence uses the word "wee" correctly?

A: We got a Nintendo Wee for Christmas.

B: The monster was huge with wee large hands.

C: The new born puppy had wee little paws.

D: Wee got a Nintendo Wii for Christmas.

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 do you think the moral of the story is?

In your own words describe what you think the moral of the story is and why by providing examples and quotes from the story.

2 - What does the opening of the story tell you?

The author opened the story with once upon a time.... If somebody only read this sentence in the story, what could they conclude about the rest of the story? Think about other stories you have read that have opened with once upon a time. What are some common themes about those stories and The Elves and the Shoemaker?

3 - What if the title of the story was different?

If the title of this story (The Elves and the Shoemaker) did not tell you that the story was going to include elves and instead was simply titled The Shoemaker, what might you have thought was the explanation for the shoes appearing on the shoemaker's work bench each night before finding out in chapter six that it was the elves? What is the importance and significance of having a good title to a story from an author's point of view?

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Think about the sentence But they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful and the sentence The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who?have made us happy and prosperous? . A major theme in this story is being thankful and showing gratitude. In a 500 word essay, describe a time in your life, or someone's life you know, when gratitude has been shown for a nice gesture. Use comparisons from the story to show how the shoemaker and his wife showed gratitude to the elves for their nice gesture. Make sure to include the impact the elves had on the shoemaker's life as well as the impact from your own personal example of gratitude.