



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Lauren Toner

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Seasons, Critical Thinking, Vocabulary, Animals.

Lesson Description: This lesson will have students read the following short passage individually.

Students will gain reading comprehension and vocabulary building skills, critical thinking, and reading skills.

Then the teacher will read the short passage aloud to the class and have an open discussion.

After the class discussion, students will complete the following questions and activities on their own.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

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.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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. Let me know if you have any questions.

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:** 2

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." what does the word "grain" mean?

- A: A type of board game
- B: A type of beetle
- C: A kind of plant
- D: Summer

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

- A: The grain climbed up onto the bed.
 - B: The weather was perfect for the grain to grow strong this season.
 - C: My little brother did a craft project with grain.
 - D: The kids love to play on the grain outside in the playground.
- =====

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: Horrible
- B: Sad
- C: Enjoyable
- D: Weird

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

- A: The teacher had a lovely day she was sick all day long with the flu.
 - B: John was having a lovely time stuck in rush hour traffic, making him late to work.
 - C: My sister broke her leg and her scar was lovely.
 - D: The children had a fun day playing in the park, the weather was lovely.
- =====

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: Coworkers at your job
- B: Bugs that collect leaves
- C: Plants that talk
- D: Friends and people who live next door to you or near by

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

- A: My neighbor gave me flour so I could bake a cake, they are so nice!
 - B: All the neighbors waited in line to buy some food.
 - C: I know a whole bunch of neighbors in my math class.
 - D: The neighbors test drove a brand new car.
- =====

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson." what does the word "lesson" mean in this sentence?

- A: Something useful in life to learn
- B: a brand new shirt
- C: a type of bug
- D: and old cell phone

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

- A: The lesson was sorry he stole cereal from the store.
 - B: Today the lesson taught me how to wash and dry my laundry.
 - C: The girl was in trouble with the lesson.
 - D: The clown told lessons to all the children at the school.
- =====

Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: Please answer each discussion question by writing one paragraph minimum. Include vocabulary words from the story in your answers.

1 - Lesson Learned:

In the short passage, you read it says, "The grasshopper had learned a lesson. What lesson did the grasshopper learn?"

2 - Seasonal Grain Growth:

From reading the short passage explain why the ants and grasshopper didn't collect grain during the winter?

3 - Personal Opinion:

What did you like best about this passage? What did you dislike about this passage?

If you could change anything in the passage how would you change it and what would it be?

Explain why you choose to change the passage.

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write 3 paragraphs about how you manage your time like the grasshopper in our short passage, ?at home and?at school?? List a time in your life where you felt as though you did not have enough time to prepare yourself or lacked time management skills. List 5 ways how you can incorporate time management skills into your life?to make it easier for you.

=====