



## A Lesson on Sir Gobble by Caroline Dunning

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** turkey, Thanksgiving, Sir Gobble, emotions, context clues, main idea, alternate endings

**Lesson Description:** Students will read the short story 'Sir Gobble' and then answer 8 vocabulary questions, answer 3 discussion topic questions, and write one short answer essay. Students will learn to understand how specific vocabulary can impact a story. They will also discuss how a character's actions affect the ending to a story and each character's affect on the story and each other.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5: Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6: Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 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.

### Sir Gobble

by

**Content:** Bessie Curtis resided with her aunt and uncle on a farm. She was very worried. Bessie enjoyed the country, and she loved her uncle and aunt. However, something deeply disturbed her. As the summer passed and the autumn came, she had moments when she looked incredibly sad. What was the reason for her sadness? I can tell you, because I was there.

Early in the spring, her uncle had given her a young turkey. There, Bessie, he had said, that is one of the prettiest turkeys I have ever seen. I will give him into your care, and on Thanksgiving Day we will have him on the dinner table.

For some time, Bessie fed the turkey every day without feeling particularly fond of him. Very soon, however, he began to know her; he not only ran to meet her when she brought him his corn and meal, but he would follow her about just the way Mary's little lamb followed HER about.

Her uncle often called after her, And everywhere that Bessie goes, the turkey's sure to go. Yes, round the garden, up and down the avenue, and even into the house itself the turkey followed Bessie. Then why was she so sad? Alas! She remembered her uncle's words when he gave her the turkey, On Thanksgiving Day we will have him on the table. Thanksgiving Day would be here in a week.

Now, if Bessie had been like some little girls, she would have told her trouble to her uncle. But, she never mentioned it to anyone, although she cried herself to sleep several nights before Thanksgiving Day.

At last the day came, and Bessie, instead of going out to the yard as usual, kept in the house all the morning. She was afraid that if she went outside, she would not find her beloved friend. Dinnertime came and, with a heavy heart, she seated herself at the table. Her uncle and aunt saw how upset she seemed.

Come, come, said her uncle, We must cheer up; there are no sad looks on Thanksgiving Day. Maria, BRING IN THE TURKEY. Poor Bessie! She could not bring herself to look up as the door opened, and something was brought in on a big platter. As the platter was placed on the table, she saw that it did indeed hold her turkey, but he was alive and well.

Her uncle said, Why, Bessie, did you think I would kill your pet? No, indeed, but I told you he should be on the table Thanksgiving Day, so here he is.

Then Bessie's uncle struck the turkey gently with his carving knife, the way the queen strikes a man with a sword when she makes him a knight.

Behold! said Bessie's uncle, I dub you 'Sir Gobble;' you shall never be killed, but die a natural death, and never be parted from Bessie.

Now, you may guess who I am. I was there all the time. I have feathers.

---

---

---

## 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:** disturbed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Read the following sentences from the passage: "Bessie enjoyed the country, and she loved her uncle and aunt. However, something deeply disturbed her." Which of the following is the meaning of the word 'disturbed' in this context?

- A: excited
- B: intrigued
- C: frustrated
- D: upset

**Question:** Read over the following sentences carefully. Which sentence uses the word 'disturbed' correctly?

- A: Harriet was disturbed that he would be the new starting pitcher on his school's baseball team.
  - B: When Carrie noticed her brother crying alone in his bedroom, she was feeling disturbed and told their mother.
  - C: "I am so disturbed!" Wendy exclaimed as she opened her birthday present and got exactly what she wanted.
  - D: When Jack broke his friend George's toy, George was so disturbed that he yelled at Jack.
- 
- 

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** behold **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "Behold!" said Bessie's uncle, "I dub you 'Sir Gobble,' you shall never be killed, but die a natural death, and never be parted from Bessie." In this sentence, what is the meaning of the word 'behold'?

- A: look
- B: hold
- C: surprise
- D: stop

**Question:** Read the following sentences. Which sentence correctly uses the word 'behold'?

- A: "Behold!" yelled the crossing guard to the student. "Do not cross the road until all of the vehicles have stopped."
  - B: After finishing his masterpiece, Leo called in his family to see his work. "Behold!" he proclaimed. "I have sculpted an entire city!"
  - C: Johnny needed help carrying his 3 textbooks to class and asked Frances to behold some for him as they walked together.
  - D: Violet was so upset that everyone had forgotten her birthday, but as she opened her front door, everyone jumped up and yelled "Behold!"
- 
- 

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** particularly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Read the following sentence: "For some time, Bessie fed the turkey every day without feeling particularly fond of him." What is the meaning of the word 'particularly' in this sentence?

- A: especially
- B: accidentally
- C: friendly
- D: quickly

**Question:** Read the following sentences carefully. Which of the following uses the word 'particularly' correctly?

- A: As Jonathan arrived out front of the store 20 minutes before closing, he ran particularly inside to make a purchase.
  - B: When Alexa walked down the street, she always made sure that she had a particularly appearance and demeanor.
  - C: Marcus liked to play sports, but he was particularly good at playing goalie in soccer.
  - D: When Gloria received her new class schedule, she particularly walked into Mr. Welsh's class by mistake.
- 
- 

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** indeed **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "As the platter was placed on the table, she saw that it did indeed hold her turkey, but he was alive and well." In this sentence, what is the meaning of the word 'indeed'?

- A: doubtfully
- B: not
- C: unable
- D: truly

**Question:** Read over the following sentences carefully. Which sentence uses the word 'indeed' correctly?

- A: Harrison's mother checked his grades, and as Harrison had said, they had indeed gone up, so he was allowed to play video games.
- B: Lamia's friend Ruby was late to school and told Lamia that it was because her mother was a spy and had a secret mission that morning, but Lamia was indeed that Ruby was telling the truth.

**C:** Gwen checked the lost and found for her sweater, but unfortunately it was indeed there.

**D:** Russell begged his football coach to let him play in the big game, but his coach said that he was indeed to.

---

---

## 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 - Have you ever had a miscommunication? If not, how could a miscommunication occur?**

Have you ever felt as upset as Bessie did when her family brought in the turkey platter on Thanksgiving, only to discover the entire situation was a huge misunderstanding? If so, what happened and how was it resolved?

If not, give an example of a situation where a major miscommunication could occur that would cause someone to feel upset. What could happen and how could it be resolved?

**2 - Would a different narrator affect the story? Explain your answer.**

Does the author's choice in narrator affect the story? How would the affect of the story on the reader have changed if it were narrated by Bessie? Bessie's uncle? Explain your answer.?

**3 - If you were the author, what would you change about this story?**

If you were the author of this story, what would you change about the story? Would you change the setting, plot, characters, ending, etc.? Based on what you decided to change, how would this affect the entire story? Would the ending be changed? Would the characters behave differently? Would Bessie's emotions change? Explain your answer.?

---

=====  
Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** After reading 'Sir Gobble', what do you feel was the author's purpose for writing this story? Use examples from the story to explain your answer. How could Bessie's uncle and aunt have behaved differently to not cause Bessie to feel so sad? Your answer should be between 350 and 500 words.

=====