



A Lesson on The Lion and the Spider by Shawnee Wiggins

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, The Lion and the Spider

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use the reading and writing skills they have learned to read the passage and answer questions. Students will have to reread to successfully complete the lesson and to fully understand the spiders point of view and reasoning.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

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.4.4a: 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: Fierce **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says, "It was fierce when it hunted." What does "fierce" mean?

- A: Kind
- B: Very violent, eager to fight or kill
- C: Calm and quiet
- D: Mild and wild

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

- A: The lion was so calm and fierce the spider helped him.
 - B: The spider was a kind and fierce insect that spun webs to feed her children.
 - C: The fierce lion took down his prey for dinner.
 - D: The fierce spider caught her prey for dinner with her web.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Selfish **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "selfish" mean?

- A: Helps others
- B: Concerned about others
- C: Both A and B
- D: Only cares about themselves

Question: Which sentence below is correct?

- A: The spider was selfish and helped out the lion.
 - B: The lion was selfish and only cares about himself.
 - C: The selfish spider told the lion he would spin a web to help him.
 - D: The lion was so selfish the spider thanked him.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Web **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, what is a "web"?

- A: Something that is woven out of thin material.
- B: Something made by a human.
- C: It's made out of sticks and leaves.
- D: It's made out of thick material for bigger animals.

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

- A: The lion made a web to catch his food.
 - B: The spider ate his web for dinner.
 - C: The lion slept on a web.
 - D: The spider spun a web to help catch food for his children.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Insects **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What are insects?

- A: Grass
- B: Bugs that spiders eat.
- C: Birds
- D: Fish

Question: Which sentence correctly uses "insects"?

- A: The insect fought the lion for the web.
 - B: The spider slept on the insect.
 - C: The spider fed his children insects.
 - D: The spider spun a web out of insects.
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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 - Why does the spider bite the lion?

In the story the spider jumps on the lions back and bites the lion. Why does she do this??

2 - Did the lion learn his lesson?

Do you feel that the lion actually learned his lesson by the end of the story?

3 - Can lions spin webs?

Why can't the lion spin a web? If he could, would he be able to use it to catch food?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Have you ever tried to get your point across to someone and they just aren't listening? Think about that you were trying to explain and what they didn't understand. Tell me about it and make sure you include the lesson they learned when they didn't listen. (Minimum of 200 words)

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