



## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Catherine McClure

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours 15 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Ants, Grasshoppers, Hard Work, Critical thinking

**Lesson Description:** Prior to the lesson, teachers are encouraged to take their class outside for recess and to have their students explore and search for ants and grasshoppers. Teachers can discuss how ants collect food and bring it to their homes while having the students observe and write down facts about ants and grasshoppers and their different behaviors. During this lesson, the students will learn valuable reading and comprehension skills while also learning facts about ants and grasshoppers. Students will also learn new vocabulary and will break off into partners to help better analyze the short story. The partners will answer the vocabulary and discussion questions, as well as the writing prompt. Once the essays are finished, the teacher can give the students the option to share their essays or act out a scenario related to the topic. This lesson can also be integrated in a science or math class.

### 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.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.3.8: Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3b: Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

---

## 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 author in our short story said "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 "grain" mean in the sentence?

- A: A type of vegetable
- B: Sand and dirt
- C: Leaves from a tree
- D: A kind of plant

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A: The girls started a warm fire with grain from the woods.
- B: My mom mixed grain into the dough when she was baking bread.
- C: The dog went outside and brought grain back in the house.
- D: The grain crawled across the windowsill.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Grow **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "grow" mean in the sentence, "The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows."

- A: To move quickly
- B: To take a very long time
- C: To produce
- D: To be pulled out of the ground

**Question:** Which of the sentences below uses the word "grow" correctly?

- A: Spencer used water to help the plant grow.
- B: The girl grows fast to get to her car.
- C: He used the shovel to grow the dirt.
- D: She grew the water from the faucet.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Save **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the sentence, "Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter." what does the word "save" mean?

- A: Harm
- B: Conserve
- C: Lose
- D: Abandon

**Question:** Which of the sentences below uses the word "save" correctly?

- A: Peter saved the cow by letting it loose into the woods.
- B: She saved the water by drinking it.
- C: He had to save the princess from the dragon.
- D: When you spend your money you are saving it.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the sentence, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." what does the word "lovely" mean?

- A: Ugly
- B: Poor
- C: Delightful
- D: Unhappy

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

- A: Sam has a lovely time at the doctor's office when he gets his shots.
- B: Learning math is lovely and I enjoy when I take math tests.
- C: The weather was lovely yesterday during the storm.
- D: I had a lovely holiday with my family and friends.

---

## 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 - No Food for the Grasshopper

During the winter, the grasshopper did not collect grain as the ants did, why is that?

### 2 - Friendly Neighbors Teach a Lesson

In our short story, the ants say, 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. Why do they help the grasshoppers when they decided not to work hard?

### 3 - Seasons Change, Work Stops

Living in Florida, we all know that the summer weather can be very hot. Why didn't the ants collect the grain in the winter when it is cooler outside, therefore making it easier to work?

---

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Instructions: Write a 2 paragraph essay on how you think the grasshopper in the story should schedule his day based on having time to both work and play. Give examples and explain in detail what he should be doing and when he should be doing it. Your job is to make sure he has plenty of time to do work and to play. Make sure to use at least 5 vocabulary words from the story and include in your explanation.

=====