



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Taylor Gambrell

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Word Meaning, Discussion, Writing, How the Firefly Got Its Light

Lesson Description: In this lesson students will read the story "How the Firefly Got Its Light" and answer questions about the content of the story. Students will apply their critical thinking skills and receive practice with the concept of close reading. This comes in the form of answering vocabulary-based questions surrounding the text, discussions about their interpretation of the text's content, and relating their own experiences with the protagonist of the story.

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.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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.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.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 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.

How the Firefly Got Its Light

by

Content: This is a story based on an old folktale.?

This is a story about long ago. ?There was a little fly. ?It wanted to be special. ?The fly was?sad. ?It did not feel special. ?It looked at the bee and thought it was great. ?Look at how big it is. ?Hear it buzz. ?It looked at the butterfly and said, See how pretty. Look at the colors. ?Look at the?big wings. ?I am just like all the other flies.?

The fly stayed awake one night. ?It was worried. ?It was sad. ?All the other flies were?sleeping. ?A moth was awake. ?So was a mouse. ?They did not notice the fly. ?It was too small. ?It?was hard to see in the dark.?

The fly saw the stars. ?They were shining. ?I want to shine like that. That would be?special.?

The moon heard the fly. ?The moon said, Little fly. ?You can help me. ?If you do, I will help?you. ?I will make you shine.?

How can I help? ??

The moon said, You can be my friend. ?I am lonely at night. ?I come out when it is dark. ?Most animals are asleep. ?If you stay awake every night I will help you shine. ?Then you can be my?friend. ?

Yes, yes, the fly said. ?So the moon helped it. ?The moon told the fly the secret. ?The moon?told the fly how to shine. ??

The next night, the fly stayed awake. ?It used the secret. ?It was shining. ?On, off, it made its?body light. ?It looked like magic.?

Look, said the mouse. Look at that fly. ?How special. ?The mouse said, Id like to shine,?too. ?His mother said, NO! ?That would be dangerous. ?You know we need to be able to hide.?

The fly was very glad. ?The fly told the moon, I will always be your friend. ?When you?come out at night, I will be here. ?I will shine my light to welcome you. ?Then the fly went to?sleep. ?Finally. ?Now I have what I need.?

=====

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: Shine **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "I will make you shine." What is the meaning of the word "shine" in this sentence?

- A: A dark appearance
- B: Bright in appearance
- C: Something that is sharp
- D: Old

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "shine" correctly?

- A: I paid for the book with 20 shine.
 - B: My dog ate all his shine when I fed him.
 - C: The sound of my car is very shine.
 - D: The sun will shine its light when morning comes.
-

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Stars **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "The fly saw the stars." What is the meaning of the word "stars" in this section?

- A: Lights in the sky at night caused by far away suns in other solar systems
- B: People who hold signs on street corners
- C: Clothing people wear on their head
- D: Instruments you play in a band

Question: Which sentence has the correct use of the word "stars"?

- A: I made sure to eat all the stars on my plate before dessert.
 - B: She looked up and pointed at all the stars in the night sky.
 - C: I always put on my stars when I go to bed.
 - D: My friend crossed the river using his stars.
-

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "NO! That would be dangerous." What is the meaning of the word "dangerous" in this sentence?

- A: Pleasant
- B: Large
- C: Hurtful or Harmful
- D: Hot or Warm

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: I took my dangerous to the doctor for a check-up.
 - B: The piece of cake I ate was dangerous.
 - C: I will eat all my vegetables so I can grow up strong and dangerous.
 - D: Swimming in the water with sharks could be dangerous.
-

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Moth **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "A moth was awake." In this section, what is a moth?

- A: A tool you use to eat soup.
- B: Someone who likes to watch TV at night
- C: A nocturnal insect that is similar to a Butterfly
- D: A type of dinosaur

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

- A: A moth flew by my head during my nightly walk.
 - B: I used a moth to open the door.
 - C: I wish my dog could be like all the other moth.
 - D: My friend takes the moth to school everyday.
-

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 - Who should the fly trust?

In the story, the moon says that he will give the fly what he wants most, the ability to shine, only if the moon receives the fly's help. Why should the fly trust the moon and how does he know the moon will give him what he wants?

2 - What made the fly special?

The fly stood out from all the other flies because he gained the ability to shine. What else makes the fly special and unique? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

3 - The fly can finally sleep at night...

When the fly goes to sleep he claims Finally. Now I have what I need.. What does the fly mean when he says this? Use parts of the story to support your answer.

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In the story, the fly learns a valuable lesson and gains a friend along the way. Can you remember a time when you felt lonely and gained a friend that helped you? What made this friend special and stand out from the rest? Write 2 paragraphs (about 200 words) relating your experience to the fly and his adventure. Support this using evidence from the text and your own opinion.

=====