



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Gretchen Faerberboeck

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Ants, Grasshoppers, Reading, Vocabulary, Lesson

Lesson Description: During this lesson, students will learn vocabulary, reading skills, and reading comprehension. Students will read the passage silently and then the teacher will read the passage out loud.

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.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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.

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:** 2

Question: What does the word grain mean in the sentence "So now they have grain to eat. "?

- A: A plant
- B: A book
- C: A game
- D: A type of weather

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

- A: This is the perfect time to grow grain.
- B: My favorite thing to play is grain.
- C: I am reading a book called grain.
- D: The weather outside is grain.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Neighbors **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: Strangers
- B: People who live close by
- C: A type of bug
- D: People who work at your job

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

- A: My neighbors help me out when I need something.
- B: There are a lot of neighbors in the store.
- C: The neighbors are waiting in a long line.
- D: My mom needed a bunch of neighbors for dinner.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Wintertime **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word wintertime mean in this sentence "It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine."?

- A: It is summer and it is hot
- B: It is winter and nothing is growing
- C: It is fall and it is starting to get cold
- D: It is spring and everything is growing

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

- A: It is cold and there is snow during wintertime.
- B: I like to go swimming when it is wintertime.
- C: I am heading to wintertime.
- D: June is my favorite wintertime month.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Rush **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word rush mean in this sentence "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." ?

- A: To move quickly
- B: To move slowly
- C: To stop everything
- D: Tying their shoe

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

- A: I had to rush and get my work done because I was running late.
- B: I take my time and rush though my math test. I am always the last one done.
- C: Bob rushed the dirt off his back.
- D: Grace patiently rushed though her book.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - What lesson did the Grasshoppers learn at the end of the short story

What lesson did the Ants teach the Grasshoppers?

2 - Growing Grain

Why did the ants only grow grain in the summer?

3 - What did the Grasshoppers do during the summer

What were the Grasshoppers doing in the summer instead of growing grain?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a paragraph explaining how you keep up with work and play and what are the consequences for not getting things done.?

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