



A Lesson on The Gift by Kernaghan Jennifer

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Compare and Contrast/ Vocabulary/ Essay

Lesson Description: The lesson on The Gift is a lesson with four vocabulary words, a brief discussion board discussing the main details and the moral of the story, and a short essay on comparing two situations.

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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

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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).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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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 Gift

by

Content: One windy day in March, Mary Miller was on her way to school when she looked in a store window. She saw a lovely red apples. Oh, she said, how lovely! If only Mamma could have one!

Marys mother was very poor. She had been a nurse ever since Marys father died. She had worked hard to earn a living for herself and Mary. But now she had become sick. She was obliged to lie in bed all day, and when Mary was away at school, the house was very lonesome. She missed her little angel. That is what she called Mary. Mary took care of her mother. She cooked her food. Mostly she cooked soup. They could not afford fresh fruit. She would sing to her at night.

She was usually a good student, but that day she made so many mistakes that the teacher looked at her in surprise. She was not paying attention. She was thinking about her mother and the apples.

When school was dismissed, Mary started home. She had gone only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet. Running quickly forward she picked it up. There must be a good deal of money in it, thought Mary. How I wish I could keep it. Then I could buy Mamma a red apple and so many other things she needs.

She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Touching him on the arm, she said, Please, Sir, you dropped your wallet.

Thank you, said the man taking the wallet. Then noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, Why did you not keep the wallet?

Because that would be stealing, replied Mary. But, she continued honestly, before I thought I must give it back to you, I did wish I could keep it, for then I could buy Mamma a red apple.

He smiled kindly and said, You are a good little girl to return my wallet. I would like to give you a little present and then you can buy a red apple. He handed her a dollar and then said goodbye.

Mary was so surprised that she ran to the store. The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning. He quickly picked out the biggest, roundest, reddest apple he could find. He took it out to Mary and said, Would you like this one?

She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it. She thanked him for my mother, and he smiled and gave her another. For you, too, he said. When Mary reached home with her treasures, she found her mother fast asleep. She put the apples and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke.

When Mrs. Miller was told the wonderful story, she kissed her little daughter and said, You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful.

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: Obligated **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: " She was OBLIGED to lie in bed all day, and when Mary was away at school, the house was very lonesome." What does the word obliged mean in this sentence?

- A: Required
- B: Grateful
- C: Sick
- D: Tired

Question: Choose the sentence below with the word "obliged" that means the same as the story.

- A: I'm feeling very obliged.
 - B: We are obliged to follow the rules at school.
 - C: Please obliged somewhere else.
 - D: Boys are obliged to play video games.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Usually **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "She was USUALLY a good student, but that day she made so many mistakes that the teacher looked at her in surprise." What does the word usually mean in this sentence?

- A: Never
- B: All the time
- C: Careless
- D: Occasionally

Question: Which of these sentences below uses the word usually correctly?

- A: In the Nothern states it usually snows during the Winter time.
 - B: I usually brush my teeth.
 - C: Usually stealing is okay.
 - D: I'm usually mean to my parents.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Dismissed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "When school was DISMISSED, Mary started home. " What does the word dismissed mean in this sentence?

- A: Boring
- B: At a stand still
- C: Forced to stay
- D: Allowed to leave

Question: Which sentence below uses the word dismissed correctly?

- A: The strangers wallet dismissed itself from his pocket.
 - B: The pet store is dismissing all their pets.
 - C: The teacher dismissed her students from class.
 - D: You dismiss me.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Longingly **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so LONGINGLY in at his window in the morning. " What does the word longingly mean in this sentence?

- A: Not care for
- B: To desire
- C: Hatefully
- D: Dramatically

Question: Choose the sentence below that does NOT use the word "longingly" correctly like in the story.

- A: My dogs went outside for a longed amount of time.
 - B: The student has been up for hours studying for their exam, they long for a nap.
 - C: I've always wanted a dog says the child as she longingly looks through the pet shop window.
 - D: A chocolate lover longs for a Hershey's bar.
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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 - What is the moral of the story?

Please explain what the moral of the story is and give an example from the story describing the moral with one paragraph, remember a paragraph is 3-5 sentences.

2 - What were the benefits of Mary being honest in this story?

Please use examples from the text to answer the question. Your answer should be 2-3 sentences.

3 - Why was Mary's mother not with her throughout the day? Did that play a huge part in the story? Why or why not?

Use clues from the story to answer this question. Your response should be 4-6 sentences long.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 300 word essay on how this story can relate to something that happened to you or in another story, is there anything you would have done differently? Make sure to provide specific examples from the story and explain your real life scenario the essay should be a compare and contrast between the two.

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