



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Sydney Burkhalter

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: <http://google.com>

Lesson Description: Answer the questions, discussions, and writing below about the reading "The Ants and the Grasshopper."

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

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 talks about how the ants gathered grain for the winter to survive. What is the definition of grain, according to the author?

- A: Grain is a vegetable
- B: Grain is a fruit
- C: Grain is a plant
- D: Grain is what the ants used to make their home

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the definition of \"grain\" correctly?

- A: I planted grain and used it to make bread.
 - B: Grain is used to make candy
 - C: I used grain to make a new shirt
 - D: Grain is not a food
-

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Work **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the story says "The ants work hard everyday." What does "work" mean in this sentence?

- A: The ants are playing
- B: The ants are getting something difficult done that will benefit them later on
- C: The ants are sitting around doing nothing
- D: The ants are talking

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "work" correctly?

- A: I work hard so I can pay my bills
 - B: I'm going to work tomorrow
 - C: I need to work out and go for a run
 - D: Work was so boring today
-

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

Question: The author of the story says \"It's fun to play, but you need to save for the winter, too.\" What does the word \"save\" mean in this sentence?

- A: Help someone from drowning
- B: Collect something and use it right away
- C: Keep something from deleting
- D: Collecting something and keeping it for later

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

- A: I need to save my homework on my computer so it doesn't delete
 - B: I need to save my money so I can buy a TV in a couple months
 - C: "Someone save him from drowning!"
 - D: "Help save my dog!"
-

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Wintertime **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says \"It is wintertime.\" What is the definition of wintertime?

- A: Wintertime is during the winter and when the weather turn colder
- B: Wintertime is during the winter when the weather turns warmer
- C: Wintertime is during the summer when the weather turns colder
- D: Wintertime is during the summer when the weather turns warmer

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word \"wintertime\" correctly?

- A: "It's so hot in the wintertime."
 - B: Wintertime is during the month of July
 - C: "It's wintertime, I need to get my colder weather coat."
 - D: It will never snow in the wintertime
-

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 lesson did the grasshopper learn?

In the end of the story, the author talks about how the grasshopper had been taught a lesson by the ants. What lesson did the grasshopper learn and why was it so important? How does this relate to you and your life?

2 - A balance of work and play.

In the story, the grasshopper is hungry because he didn't work and save food for the winter. The ants are not hungry because they worked hard and saved food for the winter. Do you think there can be a balance between the hard work of the ants and the playfulness of the grasshopper? If there can be a balance, how will the ants and grasshopper balance this while still getting enough food for the winter?

3 - Should the ants have shared?

In the story, the ants ended up sharing their food with the grasshopper because the grasshopper didn't save enough food for the winter. Do you think the ants should have shared their food or should they have kept it to themselves??

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 500 word essay on the balance of work and play, and how someone can live their life comfortably with both. Make sure to provide examples from the text to support your answers and feel free to use the story as a comparison to the real world.

=====