



## A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Kelly Brown

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** The Elves and the Shoemaker, Reading, and Writing

**Lesson Description:** This lesson aims to have students put their reading and writing skills into practice to make hypothesis and reflect on the understanding of the text and the shoemakers choices. In reading and observing the text through specific questions, students will see how a poor man and his wife struggled and then were bestowed with wealth, students will inquire as to why.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9: Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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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 Elves and the Shoemaker

by

**Content:** The Elves and the Shoemaker

Once upon a time there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor. He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife. At last there came a day when he had nothing left but one piece of leather, big enough to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes, ready to stitch and left them on the bench; then he said his prayers and went to bed, trusting that he could finish the shoes the next day and sell them.

Bright and early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench. There lay a pair of shoes, beautifully made, and the leather was gone! There was no sign of anyone having been there. The shoemaker and his wife did not know what to make of it. But the first customer who came was so pleased with the beautiful shoes that he bought them, and paid so much that the shoemaker was able to buy leather enough for two pairs.

Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning. But when morning came, two pairs of shoes lay on the bench, most beautifully made, and no sign of anyone who had been there. It was a puzzle. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money.

Once more he cut out the shoes and left them on the bench. And in the morning all four pairs were made.

It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people. But they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room.

Just as the clock struck twelve, the door opened softly and two tiny elves came dancing into the room, hopped on to the bench, and began to put the pieces together. They were quiet, but they had wee little scissors and hammers and thread. Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work. No one ever worked so fast as they. In almost no time all the shoes were stitched and finished. Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window.

The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?

I should like to make them some pretty clothes, said the wife.

I will make the shoes if you will make the coats, said her husband.

That very day they commenced their task. The wife cut out two tiny, tiny coats of green, two little pairs of trousers, of white, two bits of caps, bright red, and her husband made two little pairs of shoes with long, pointed toes. They made the clothes as dainty as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons. By Christmas time, they were finished.

On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker cleaned his bench, and on it, instead of leather, he laid the two sets of clothes. Then he and his wife hid away as before, to watch.

Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in. They hopped upon the bench; but when they saw the little clothes there, they laughed and danced for joy. Each one caught up his little coat and things and began to put them on. They were so happy. Then, when the clock struck two, they left smiling.

They never came back anymore, but from that day they gave the shoemaker and his wife good luck, so that they never needed any more help.

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## 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:** honest **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says the phrase, "there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor." What does the word honest mean in this sentence?

- A: truthful
- B: sincere
- C: hardworking
- D: genuine

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

- A: She was honest during the test.
- B: My friend was honest about my outfit.
- C: I am honest with my parents.
- D: Susan was an honest farmer.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Rose **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author uses the phrase, "he rose and went to his workbench." What does the word "rose" mean in the sentence?

- A: stood
- B: awaken
- C: flower
- D: color

**Question:** Which of the following sentences below represent the same meaning as the "rose" in the story?

- A: She threw a rose into the water.
- B: The bear rose from his winter slumber.
- C: He rose to open the door for the woman.
- D: Her cheeks were as bright as a rose.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author uses the phrase "'How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?" What does the word "prosperous" in this sentence?

- A: poor
- B: failing
- C: buoyant
- D: wealthy

**Question:** Which of the sentences below mean the same as the word, "prosperous" in the story?

- A: She was very prosperous in her business.
- B: He will be prosperous with his test.
- C: Prosperous is the future.
- D: Dreams are not prosperous but achievable.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** commenced **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author uses the phrase, "That very day they commenced their task." What does the word, "commenced" mean in the sentence?

- A: stopped
- B: began
- C: abrupt
- D: found

**Question:** The author in the story uses the word "commenced" the same as in which of the following sentences?

- A: She commenced a search party for her lost dog.
- B: The ball commenced in the park all by itself.
- C: The ceremony commenced once the guests arrived.
- D: The power went out and the tv commenced along with all the lights.

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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 - Uses for an Onomatopoeia

In the story, the author uses multiple onomatopoeia's. These are words that are used to describe sounds in a story. What are some of the onomatopoeia's in, The Elves and the Shoemaker and how does the author use the sounds in the story and what is the author trying to get the reader to understand??

### 2 - Defining happiness in the story

In the story, how does the author use the terms happy and prosperous when regarding the shoemaker and his wife? Is this a good thing or a bad thing for the shoemaker??

### 3 - Elves and Christmas Eve

The elves in the story are said to be extremely quiet, why do you think they are quiet and what do you believe the connection is for the elves and Christmas Eve when they received their gift from the shoemaker?

### 4 - Moral of the Story

What is the moral of the story and if it had ended different, what may have been the outcome of the shoemaker and wife?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post a 500 words essay on?an alternate story to the ending of The Elves and the Shoemaker. How do you think it could have gone differently, use a compare and contrast method to explain your thoughts to the alternate ending, use other stories to contrast or compare your ending to.?

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