



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Brenna Clark

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: How the Firefly got its Light

Lesson Description: This lesson helps students with reading comprehension as they read a story, answer questions about it, and figure out the meanings of specific words.

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.3.3: 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.3.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.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.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.RF.3.3c: Decode multisyllable words.

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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.

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.?

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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: folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: This story begins by saying "This is a story based on an old folktale". What do you think the author means when he says "folktale"?

- A:** The author means it is a story based on a person's tail.
- B:** The author means it is a story that has been repeated or passed on to other's through word of mouth.
- C:** The author means it is a story about an old person.
- D:** The author means it is a story about a dog.

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

- A:** I once heard an old folktale about a girl named Cinderella who grew up to be a princess.
 - B:** I saw a folktale outside.
 - C:** There is a folktale on my dog.
 - D:** Let's go play with the folktale.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In our story, the mouse says that he wants to shine too. His mother replies with "NO! that would be dangerous". What does she mean when she says "dangerous"?

- A:** She means that the light could hurt him.
- B:** She means that the mouse would be okay if he were to shine.
- C:** She means that if the mouse shines then everyone's will be able to see him and he might get hurt.
- D:** She means that the mouse would get lost if he were to shine.

Question: What sentence below uses "dangerous" correctly?

- A:** It is dangerous to go on a walk outside.
 - B:** Riding a bike without a helmet could be dangerous.
 - C:** Reading a book is dangerous.
 - D:** Sleeping can be dangerous.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: secret **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story the author says how "The moon told the fly the secret". What does he mean by "secret"?

- A:** He means that the moon told the fly to go away.
- B:** He means that the moon told the fly he couldn't light up.
- C:** He means that the moon told the fly how he would be able to hide.
- D:** He means that the moon told the fly how he could shine, without anyone else knowing.

Question: What sentence below uses the word "secret" correctly?

- A:** Going to the park is a secret.
 - B:** I told everyone what I was thinking because it was a secret.
 - C:** My mom told me the secret recipe for banana bread.
 - D:** My friends looked for their secret.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: notice **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says how "They did not notice the fly". What does he mean by notice?

- A:** The author means that nobody could see the fly.
- B:** The author means that nobody could smell the fly.
- C:** The author means that nobody could hear the fly.
- D:** The author means that nobody could taste the fly.

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

- A:** I notice on the trampoline.
 - B:** I like to notice in the pool.
 - C:** I didn't notice that my hair was messed up because I didn't look in the mirror.
 - D:** I notice on the computer.
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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 - Explain why the fly...

Explain why the fly doesn't feel like he is special.?

2 - What did the moon want...

What did the moon want in return for helping?the fly to shine??

3 - At the end of the story the fly says, "Finally..."

At the end of the story the fly says, Finally. Now I have what I need. What is the fly talking about when he says he found what he needed??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write here the reasons why you think the fly didn't feel like he was special. Explain why he felt like he needed the gift of shining to feel special.?

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