



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Mckenna Subbarao

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** reading, writing, discussion, How the firefly got its light

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to reinforce reading and writing skills that they have been practicing with these readings students can find are relatable examples of the relationship between a moon and a fly. By reading this passage closely and multiple times, focusing on questions and discussion relating to the text, students will understand why and the reason the firefly wanted to shine. With these activities and writing about the passage, students will gain a perspective of the moon and fly relationship.

### 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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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:** notice **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the reading, the author says "They did not notice the fly". What does the word "notice" mean in this sentence?

- A: Hear
- B: See
- C: Little
- D: Welcome

**Question:** Which one of these sentences uses "notice" in the same way as the passage?

- A: Teacher sent a notice to the parents about a class trip.
  - B: Their was a notice on the wall for the school play.
  - C: Teacher gave five minute notice before recess.
  - D: Did you notice the dog came home?
- =====

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Folktalke **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the reading, the author "This story is based on an old folktale". What does the word "folktale" mean in this sentence?

- A: animal
- B: wings
- C: story
- D: light

**Question:** Which of these sentences uses "folktale" correctly?

- A: A folktale is something I eat for breakfast.
  - B: A folktale is something that I write with.
  - C: Folktales have really long arms and legs.
  - D: The movie I watched was based on a folktale.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** worried **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the reading, the author said "The fly stayed awake one night. It was worried." What does the word "worried" mean in this sentence?

- A: sad
- B: pretty
- C: sleeping
- D: scared

**Question:** Which one of these sentences uses the word "worried" correctly.

- A: Grandma's delicious cookies left them worried.
  - B: I was worried about doing my homework.
  - C: Neighbors warm welcome made them worried.
  - D: The trees were tall and worried.
- =====

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Special **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the reading, the author says "I want to shine like that. That would be special." What does the word "special" mean in this sentence?

- A: magic
- B: colorful
- C: unique
- D: dangerous

**Question:** Which one of these sentences uses "special" in the same way as the passage.

- A: Today's lunch special is Chicken fingers and French fries.
  - B: After school, we went home to watch the special on TV.
  - C: This week the grocery store had a special on pizza rolls.
  - D: My favorite shirt is special.
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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 was the promise the moon and fly made to one another?

What did the moon and fly promise to one another? Why was this promise important for the moon and the fly?

2 - What were the reason the fly wanted to shine like the stars?

What were the reasons the fly wanted to shine like the stars? Give two reasons and explain why the fly wanted to shine like the stars.

3 - When the fly is shinning what animal noticed.

When the fly is shinning what animal noticed. What was the reason this animal could not shine?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** The firefly wanted to be special for your writing assignment, write one sentence each about five things that make you special. Submit your answer in the box below

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