



## A Lesson on The Lion and the Spider by Viera Brady

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** The Lion and the Spider, vocabulary, discussion, writing, moral

**Lesson Description:** This lesson will teach the students of the story titled The Lion and the Spider. This lesson will also teach them vocabulary, deeper thinking, and how to find the moral of a short story.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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 Lion and the Spider

by

**Content:** It was a sunny day in the grassland. The lion had slept well. It was fierce when it hunted. But today it was not hungry yet. It would hunt for food later in the day. Right now, all it wanted to do was relax. It stretched out and watched the grass.

Then it noticed a spider. The spider was climbing on a plant. Then the spider jumped to the next plant and left a string between them. It was making a web. The lion watched for a while. How clever you are, it said to the spider. How did you learn to do that?

The spider said, My mother showed me how to do this. I learned from her. And I have taught my children how to make webs.

The lion watched a while longer. Then it asked the spider, But why do you do that when you could just grab your food, the way I do?

I am just a small animal. I cannot run fast. So I do not eat insects that run. I cannot fly. I eat flies. So with my web I can catch them.

The lion said, Could you make me a web that could catch an animal for me to eat? Then I would not have to run after them either?

The spider thought about that. At first she thought the lion was joking. But he was not.

I cant do that, she said. My web can catch a fly. But it could not catch a big animal. And you could not live by eating flies.

Just then a fly flew into the spiders web. She went to get it. She wrapped it up for her children. Then she went back to spinning more of the web.

The lion was very selfish. It was jealous of the spider. It did not have to work hard for its food. And it would not help him get his food. So it slapped at the spider web and broke it. But the spider jumped onto the lions back. And it bit the lion.

Now you will remember me, said the spider as she hopped off and into the grass. Think before you are mean to another animal. We are all special. And some of us may be small but very smart.

The lion tried to scratch its back but could not reach the spider bite. It itched for days. The lion remembered the smart spider for a long time.

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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:** Clever **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "How clever you are," it said to the spider. What does the word "clever" mean in this sentence?

- A: The lion thinks the spider is smart
- B: The lion thinks the spider is happy
- C: The lion thinks the spider is confused
- D: The lion thinks the spider is scared

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "clever" correctly?

- A: The clever sighed loudly.
  - B: The boy was clever when he punched his friend.
  - C: I felt clever when I got an A on my writing project.
  - D: The clever walked down the street.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Selfish **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The lion was very selfish. What does the word "selfish" mean in this sentence

- A: The lion is outgoing
- B: The lion is self-centered
- C: The lion is happy
- D: The lion is scared

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "selfish" correctly?

- A: The woman was selfish for driving her grandmother to her doctors appointment.
  - B: The selfish swam away into the ocean.
  - C: I was selfish when i bought my grandma a birthday gift.
  - D: It was selfish of the thief to steal food from the grocery store.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Grassland **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** It was a sunny day in the grassland. What does the word "grassland" mean in this sentence?

- A: The lion and spider lived in a very cold place
- B: The lion and spider lived in a dessert
- C: The lion and spider lived in a place full of plants and grass
- D: The lion and spider lived in a city

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "grassland" correctly?

- A: The grassland has a warm climate, and is full of wildlife and many different types of plants.
  - B: The grassland escaped from its cage.
  - C: The penguin searched for a colder climate, so he went to the grassland.
  - D: The grassland walked to the store.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Web **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** Then the spider jumped to the next plant and left a string between them, it was making a web. What does the word "web" mean in this sentence?

- A: The spider made a web to relax in
- B: The spider made a web to give herself a place to sleep
- C: The spider made a web to ward off enemies
- D: The spider made a web to catch her food

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "web" correctly?

- A: The web laughed at its friends.
  - B: The spider used her web to catch her lunch.
  - C: The web ran away from the tree.
  - D: The spiders web is used to catch water for other animals.
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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 question thoughtfully. Students are responsible for posting one answer to the provided question and one peer response for each topic.

### 1 - The Lion and the Spider

According to the story, why can't the spider, just go grab your food the way the lion does??

### 2 - Some of us may be small but very smart

What does the spider mean when she says to the lion, Think before you are mean to another animal. We are all special. And some of us may be small but very smart.? Also, what message is the spider trying to teach to the lion by saying these words??

### 3 - The lion remembered the smart spider for a very long time.

What is the biggest lesson the lion learns from the spider? In other words, why does the spider bite affect the lion so much, and make him really remember the smart spider??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For this writing activity, each student will write a 150 word response to the questions below. They will give a thoughtful answer that relates to the overall message of the short story and provide their opinion.?

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After reading this short story, what is overall message the author is trying to convey to you, the audience. What is the main lesson the author is trying to make you understand. In your opinion, how can you use the lesson taught in this short story in your every day life? How can this lesson affect your every day life choices and decisions??

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