



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Madison Kilday

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: metaphors, short story, theme, wealth

Lesson Description: In this lesson, you will be finding out the meanings of new words using context from the text. You will explain your thought process in questions due to the meaning of the text that do not have any specific answers, then explaining the theme that you have found throughout the text.

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.

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.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5: Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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: 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 any more, 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: rose **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Bright and early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench." What does the word 'rose' mean in this sentence?

- A: A flower.
- B: Smiled.
- C: Stretched.
- D: Got up.

Question: Which sentence uses the word 'rose' properly?

- A: The boy was so excited to give his mother a rose.
- B: After falling off her bike, the girl rose to try riding it again.
- C: Rose ran up to her brother and gave him a hug.
- D: The sun went down for the day as it rose through the window.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people." What does the word 'prosperous' mean in this sentence?

- A: Poor.
- B: Happy.
- C: Wealthy.
- D: Lazy.

Question: Which sentence below uses the word 'prosperous' correctly?

- A: The prosperous boy did not do his homework.
- B: The prosperous woman could now buy any dress she wanted.
- C: The prosperous dog ran around with energy.
- D: The prosperous man would have to save every cent he owned.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Stitch **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work." What does the word 'stitch' mean in this sentence?

- A: To take apart.
- B: To glue.
- C: To hammer.
- D: To sew together.

Question: Which sentence uses the word 'stitch' correctly?

- A: He needed to open the box so he would stitch it till it broke.
- B: The vase fell to the floor, forcing the girl to stitch it together so her mother could not tell.
- C: His jeans had a rip in them so he asked his mother to stitch them back together.
- D: Lilo and Stitch were always running around the beach finding new items.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: coats **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "I will make the shoes if you will make the coats." What does the word 'coats' mean in this sentence?

- A: Jackets.
- B: Thick spread.
- C: Multiple Layers.
- D: Hats.

Question: Which sentence uses 'coats' correctly?

- A: She coats her lips with lipgloss.
- B: They had to put multiple coats of paint on the wall.
- C: There were coats of dirt layering the boy after baseball practice.
- D: The mother asked her sons to put on coats before they left the house.

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 - The shoemaker and his wife..

Why do you think the shoemaker and his wife waited so long to find out who was making the shoes for them? Explain your response.

2 - The elves

Do you think the two elves are a metaphor for something? Look at the way the wife and shoemaker work together in the end.

3 - The elves

Why do you think the elves stop coming back in the end? Explain your answer and connect your point to textual evidence.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In this section you will explain what you believe the theme of the story is while citing textual evidence to make your point. At the end of your explanation, make your conclusion that ties back to the original theme.

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