



A Lesson on Mousie by Rebecca Edringer

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: reading, critical thinking, writing, hypothesis, mice, Mousie, science

Lesson Description: The purpose of this lesson is to evoke critical thinking skills. The students will read the short story. Then, they will be asked to define vocabulary words. In addition, the students will have to use their reading skills to find main ideas, which may not be obvious at first. Darrel was taunted and still chose to follow his dreams. He overlooked the jokes and continued doing what he loved most. Darrell is a great example and handles bullying in a positive manner. The discussion forum will ask students to respond to the taunting. They will have to think about being taunted. The students will engage in discussions and respectfully respond to their peers. Discussions are a great way to express opinions and see how others feel about the same question. The lesson also offers a great connection to science. Finally, the students will have to exhibit their writing skills to complete the writing prompt. This lesson reinforces the students language arts skills. However, it also opens the opportunity to remind students that bullying is not acceptable.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.RI.5.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

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.

Mousie

by

Content: Darrell Burton was always very careful. He listened to his teacher, he studied diligently, and he did all of his homework well. Other students sometimes taunted him and said, Don't study so hard. You're such a book-head. They called him Book-head, but Darrell didn't mind. He loved to learn.

This is a story about how he learned science right at home. In fact, he learned about science from experimenting with real animals. Much like scientists observe nature, Darrell did, too. He formed a hypothesis and discovered it to be true. Then he continued to study so he could learn more.

One night, Darrell woke to a strange noise coming from his closet. He stepped out of bed, crossed the floor in his bare feet, and carefully opened his closet door. The noise stopped instantly.

Ah! exclaimed Darrell, I knew it had to be mice making those noises. How I wish I could catch them!

The next morning at breakfast, he told his mother about the noises he had heard, and how he had a hypothesis that the sounds were coming from mice. I will get you a mouse trap, his mother insisted.

I don't want the kind of trap that kills the mice; I only want to catch them so that I can tame them, replied Darrell.

His mother laughed and told him that after he had tamed his mice, he had better keep them well out of her way.

The trap was set, the mice were caught, and sure enough, in just a short time, they were so tame that they would eat right from Darrell's hand. He made a little house for them, and kept it in his bedroom. Whenever he went out, he always shut the door carefully so the mice could not escape.

The other students at school started to call Darrell Mousie because he told them about his mice. He didn't mind what they said.

He read about mice, and he discovered that most of them could live only a short period of time. In fact, most mice might not even live a whole year. This made Darrell resolve to take even greater care of them. He acted like a scientist. He studied the mice closely, but he never gave them names. Instead, he just called them Mouse 1, Mouse 2, and Mouse 3. He took such good care of them that they lived more than a year. When one mouse died, Darrell would set the trap again to get another one.

When Darrell left college, he brought his mice with him. He studied biology, and his college professors said he was a great natural scientist. He learned much more about science. Later, Darrell became a zoologist. That is someone who studies animal life. Today, he is Dr. Darrell Burton, and he works at the zoo. He is in charge of caring for all the animals, including the mice. Some of the mice are exotic creatures from distant places. When he sees them, he smiles.

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: taunted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Other students sometimes taunted him...." What does the word "taunted" mean in this sentence?

- A: praised
- B: teased
- C: greeted
- D: thanked

Question: which one of the sentences below uses the word "taunted" correctly?

- A: He taunted his mother, because he was happy to see her.
 - B: I taunted the book from the store.
 - C: The winning team taunted their opponents.
 - D: Our dog taunted at the neighbors cat.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: resolve **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "This made Darrell resolve to take even greater care of them." What does the word "resolve" mean in this sentence?

- A: hesitate
- B: refuse
- C: decide
- D: forget

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

- A: Her parents are going to resolve the family car.
 - B: My brother will resolve his shoes before he leaves the house.
 - C: I resolve that I should cut my hair before school starts.
 - D: The cat will resolve her dinner quickly
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: zoologist **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Later, Darrel became a zoologist." What is a "zoologist"?

- A: someone who visits the zoo often
- B: a person who studies and works with animals
- C: a person that sells ice cream at the zoo
- D: a person who studies the stars

Question: Which sentence uses the word "zoologist" correctly?

- A: The zoologist finished his long day of work at the bank.
 - B: Only a zoologist would be able to fix that broken window.
 - C: The zoologist warned us about the approaching thunderstorm.
 - D: A zoologist gave us a tour of the zoo and informed us about all the animals.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: hypothesis **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "He formed a hypothesis and discovered it to be true." What is a "hypothesis"?

- A: a guess that can be tested
- B: a sentence
- C: a question
- D: a reflection

Question: Which sentence uses the word "hypothesis" correctly?

- A: The hypothesis told us about yesterday's news.
 - B: The cashier used a hypothesis to count back my change.
 - C: An astronaut uses a hypothesis to fly to the moon.
 - D: The student formed a hypothesis about his science project.
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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 - Darrell doesn't care...

Darrell Burton was taunted because he liked to study. Why do you think Darrell ignored his classmates when they made fun of him??? Would you continue doing what you love or would you let your classmates discourage you??

2 - Numbered Mice

Why do you think Darrell chose not to name his mice? ? Do you think your parents would allow you to catch and keep mice as pets?

3 - A great scientist.

Why do you think Darrell succeeded and fulfilled his dream of becoming a scientist? What do you want to be when you grow up? What skills do you think you need to fulfill your dream?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write one paragraphs to describe what you think?would have happened to Darrell if his mother did not allow him to catch and keep the mice? Make sure to include a hypothesis in your paragrah;?For example: If Darrell didn't catch and keep the mice then he...?

Write another paragraph answering the following question: Why do you think Darrel enjoyed to learn about science? Be sure to include examples from the text.

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