



A Lesson on The Gift by Annabel Hutchings

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Comprehension

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to have students read this story and learn about new vocabulary and ideas, while relating to their own lives. The story holds a good message for young readers, and can teach them new vocabulary and ideas while absorbing the meaning. Through the series of questions and discussions, students will be able to show their comprehension of the story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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 Gift

by

Content: One windy day in March, Mary Miller was on her way to school when she looked in a store window. She saw a lovely red apples. Oh, she said, how lovely! If only Mamma could have one!

Mary's mother was very poor. She had been a nurse ever since Mary's father died. She had worked hard to earn a living for herself and Mary. But now she had become sick. She was obliged to lie in bed all day, and when Mary was away at school, the house was very lonesome. She missed her little angel. That is what she called Mary. Mary took care of her mother. She cooked her food. Mostly she cooked soup. They could not afford fresh fruit. She would sing to her at night.

She was usually a good student, but that day she made so many mistakes that the teacher looked at her in surprise. She was not paying attention. She was thinking about her mother and the apples.

When school was dismissed, Mary started home. She had gone only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet. Running quickly forward she picked it up. There must be a good deal of money in it, thought Mary. How I wish I could keep it. Then I could buy Mamma a red apple and so many other things she needs.

She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Touching him on the arm, she said, Please, Sir, you dropped your wallet.

Thank you, said the man taking the wallet. Then noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, Why did you not keep the wallet?

Because that would be stealing, replied Mary. But, she continued honestly, before I thought I must give it back to you, I did wish I could keep it, for then I could buy Mamma a red apple.

He smiled kindly and said, You are a good little girl to return my wallet. I would like to give you a little present and then you can buy a red apple. He handed her a dollar and then said goodbye.

Mary was so surprised that she ran to the store. The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning. He quickly picked out the biggest, roundest, reddest apple he could find. He took it out to Mary and said, Would you like this one?

She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it. She thanked him for my mother, and he smiled and gave her another. For you, too, he said. When Mary reached home with her treasures, she found her mother fast asleep. She put the apples and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke.

When Mrs. Miller was told the wonderful story, she kissed her little daughter and said, You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful.

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: obliged **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of this story says, "She was obliged to lie in bed all day." What does the word "obliged" mean in this sentence?

- A: likely to
- B: made to do something
- C: sick
- D: wanted to

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "obliged" correctly?

- A: Sherry was obliged to show up to school on time.
- B: Work will be obliged tomorrow.
- C: You are obliged to watch any movie you want.
- D: It is obliged to buy a ticket to the show.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: honest **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: When the man's reaction to Mary was described as, "Then noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, "Why did you not keep the wallet?" What did the word "poorly" mean?

- A: beautiful
- B: ugly
- C: fancy
- D: badly

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "poorly" correctly?

- A: Maria tried her best to dress poorly for the dance.
- B: Anna was sick the day she performed, so she did poorly.
- C: Jennie thought that her car looked poorly after it had been washed.
- D: People become rich when they are paid poorly.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: nurse **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, it is said about Mary's mother that "She had been a nurse ever since Mary's father died." What does the word "nurse" mean?

- A: Someone who cares for plants
- B: Someone who mows lawns
- C: Someone who cares for the sick
- D: Someone who serves ice cream

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

- A: Jake is a nurse, so he spends his days teaching children math.
- B: The nurse in the hospital helped Peter feel better when he was sick.
- C: A nurse goes to work in a farm.
- D: The nurse was tired after a long day in the theater.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: charge **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When the shop owner told Mary "no charge", what did he mean by "charge"?

- A: price asked
- B: a type of fruit
- C: poem
- D: an idea

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "charge" correctly?

- A: I had a charge with my lunch.
- B: What did the store charge for those new boots?
- C: I came across a charge on my walk.
- D: Is there a new charge for the winter?

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 - Why did the shop owner not charge Mary for the apple?

When Mary tried buying the apple at the store, it was given to her for free. What do you think made the shop owner decide to do this?

2 - Why does Mary's mother tell her "You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful"?

When? Mary's mother tells her "You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful, what does she mean by this? Why did being honest and truthful help Mary this time?

3 - What does Mary's focus on the apples say about her character?

Mary spent all day thinking about getting the apples for her mother. She thought of this so much that she did not do well in school that day. What does this say about Mary as a person?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For this writing assignment, write two paragraphs on a time that you felt it paid to be honest like Mary was. Discuss what you think honesty says about a person.

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