



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Pauline Holakowski

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Folktale, story, vocabulary

**Lesson Description:** Use context clues to learn new words and show understanding of said words.  
Use text from the story to answer questions about characters and the overall story.

### 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.3.4: 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.3.1: 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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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:** Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author of our story says "This is a story based on an old folktale." What does the word "folktale" mean?

**A:** An old story told over and over again

**B:** A rumor being spread

**C:** A tale on a folk

**D:** A story about folk

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "folktale" correctly?

**A:** Can you hand me that folktale?

**B:** My grandfather used to tell me a folktale about fairies in mushrooms.

**C:** That folktale is very large.

**D:** I used to be a folktale when I was younger

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Notice **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author states that "They did not notice the fly." What does the word "notice" mean in this sentence?

**A:** Understanding something

**B:** Being scared of something

**C:** Being aware of something

**D:** Being mad at something

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "notice" correctly?

**A:** I just noticed it's dark outside.

**B:** Notice anything to do today.

**C:** That tree is a notice.

**D:** Roads were very notice.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Glad **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "The fly was very glad." Using context clues, what does "glad" mean?

**A:** Mad

**B:** Scared

**C:** Happy

**D:** Annoyed

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "glad" correctly?

**A:** I was glad to cuddle the puppy

**B:** My friend stepped on my toe and that made me glad.

**C:** He was glad to pay his parking ticket

**D:** She was glad she failed her test.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** Read the following passage from our story.

"Look," said the mouse. "Look at that fly. How special?" The mouse said, "I'd like to shine, too." His mother said, "NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide."

What does the word "dangerous" mean?

**A:** Something that will make you scared

**B:** Something that could be difficult

**C:** Something that will make you happy

**D:** Something that could cause harm

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

**A:** Trying to pet a wild tiger is dangerous

**B:** Petting a kitten is dangerous

**C:** Water is a dangerous drink

**D:** Wearing socks is dangerous

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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 - why is the moon lonely?

Explain the similarities between why both the moon and the fly are lonely

### 2 - Why is being seen at night dangerous?

The mouse's mom said it was too dangerous for him to shine like the fly. Why would it be dangerous for a mouse to shine at night?

### 3 - Why does the fly not feel special?

In our story the fly feels ordinary and not special. Why do you think he feels this way?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** This story is a folktale and is not based on true events. In an essay of at least 300 words explain how you know this story is a folktale.

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