



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Kayla Neuman

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: reading, comprehension

Lesson Description: the goal of this lesson is to expand the student's comprehension and writing skills based on the idea of being special.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

=====

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.?

=====

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: "I will shine my light to welcome you." **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: in the story, the author says "i will shine my light to welcome you." what does the word "welcome" mean?

- A: to greet someone
- B: to open
- C: to invite someone
- D: to turn away

Question: which sentence below uses the word "welcome" correctly?

- A: you are not welcome to bring your dog.
 - B: you're welcome!
 - C: you are always welcome here.
 - D: my mom welcomed me with a hug.
-

Q: 2 WordPhrase: There was a little fly. It wanted to be special **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: in the story, the author says "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special." what does the word "special" mean in this sentence?

- A: important, or different
- B: normal
- C: playful
- D: boring

Question: which sentence used the word "special" correctly?

- A: billy's mom always gave his sister special attention.
 - B: Today is very special for David.
 - C: Jennifer's new toy did not come with any special attachments
 - D: This tree is very special to me.
-

Q: 3 WordPhrase: The fly saw the stars. They were shining. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: what does the word "shining" mean in this sentence according to the author?

- A: darkness
- B: glowing with bright light
- C: happy
- D: burning

Question: what is the best example for the word "shining?"

- A: amanda's hair was shining today at recess.
 - B: the glasses are always shining after we wash them.
 - C: it is a beautiful day, the sun is shining.
 - D: my mom likes shining her jewelry.
-

Q: 4 WordPhrase: That would be dangerous. **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: in the story, the author says "That would be dangerous." what does the word "dangerous" mean?

- A: easy
- B: to cause harm
- C: lazy
- D: fast

Question: which example correctly uses the word "dangerous"?

- A: my mom says that drinking water is dangerous for me.
 - B: if i stay in bed, i will be dangerous all day!
 - C: going into the forrest at night is very dangerous.
 - D: i love my new room! it's so dangerous.
-

=====

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 fly sad?

at the beginning of the story, the author says There was a little fly. It wanted to be special. The fly was sad. explain why the fly was sad using examples and details from the story.

2 - why does the moon help the fly?

the moon says Little fly. You can help me. If you do, I will help you. I will make you shine. why did the moon help the fly? would you have helped the fly, and why?

3 - Moral of the story

after reading the passage, what do you think the moral of the story is? what was the author trying to portray? use examples from the story to help with your answer.

=====

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: the fly felt like he was special once he was able to shine, what do you think? what makes a person, place, or thing special? write and post here a 500-word essay on what you think it means to be special.?

=====