



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Chelsea Dolan

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Comprehension, Writing

Lesson Description: The student will first read the story "The Elves and the Shoemaker". They will be able to identify key words, define them, and then use them correctly in a sentence. The students will write down their responses to the discussion questions and share them with the class or in small groups later. They students will also work on their writing skills by answering the prompt in the form of an essay that contains an introductory paragraph, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph, while using examples from the text and their own experiences. The students will be able to share their discussion responses with the class and display their essay for their fellow students to see.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.5.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

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.5.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.4: Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

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.

?

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: In the sentence "Bright and early the next morning, he ROSE and went to his workbench," what does the term ROSE mean?

- A: A type of flower
- B: To become higher
- C: To gain something
- D: Get up

Question: Which sentence uses the word ROSE in the same way the passage does?

- A: The water in the bathtub ROSE quickly.
- B: After his alarm went off, the boy ROSE and got ready for school.
- C: The man bought his wife a single ROSE.
- D: Her confidence ROSE after she was told she looked pretty.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: COMMENCED **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does COMMENCED in this sentence "That very day they COMMENCED their task" mean?

- A: Stopped
- B: Remembered
- C: Created
- D: Began

Question: Use the word COMMENCED in a sentence correctly, as it is used in the passage

- A: The meeting COMMENCED once everyone showed up.
- B: The party COMMENCED after there was no more punch.
- C: An artist COMMENCED a statue after sketching it out on paper first.
- D: There was a memorial that COMMENCED the heroes who fought in the war.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: HONEST **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the author mean by "\"there was an HONEST shoemaker\"" in the first paragraph?

- A: The shoemaker told the truth.
- B: The shoemaker was fair.
- C: The shoemaker was reliable.
- D: The shoemaker was a thief.

Question: Which sentence from the the first paragraph supports your reasoning?

- A: "He worked as hard as he could."
- B: "...he said his prayers and went to bed..."
- C: "...trusting he would finish the shoes in the morning."
- D: "...who was very poor."

Q: 4 WordPhrase: PROSPEROUS **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the author mean by "It went on until the shoemaker and his wife were PROSPEROUS people?"

- A: The shoemaker and his wife went broke.
- B: The shoemaker and his wife were giving.
- C: The shoemaker and his wife were sick.
- D: The shoemaker and his wife were wealthy.

Question: Use the word PROSPEROUS in a sentence

- A: The lemonade stand was very PROSPEROUS this weekend.
- B: The lady who gave the homeless man shoes was very PROSPEROUS.
- C: PROSPEROUS people go to the hospital.
- D: When the man lost everything from the bet, he was PROSPEROUS.

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 - Honest

The shoemaker was referred to as honest in the first paragraph. Do you think he remained honest throughout the story? Why or why not?

2 - Return the favor?

The elves made the shoes for the shoemaker, which helped the shoemaker make more money. The shoe maker and his wife made the elves clothes in return. If someone did something to help you out with your project for school, what would you do? for them in return?

3 - Moral?

What is the moral of this story?

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Compare the actions of the elves and?of the shoemaker and his wife?to your pesonal experiences. Who do you relate to more, the shoemaker and his wife or the elves? Why? Use examples from the text and your own personal experiences in life to support your answer. Make sure you use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Include an introductory paragraph, at least 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.?

=====