



## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Noah Johnson

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Critical thinking, Ants, Grasshopper, Winner, Summer

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson student will learn reading, vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension skills. Each student will read the short passage by themselves. Then the teacher will read the passage out loud for each student to hear. Once this is complete then each student will continue on to complete the following questions.

### 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.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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.RL.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

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.

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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.

### The Ants and the Grasshopper

by

**Content:** It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine. They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. They can wait for the warm weather in spring. The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat.

Grain is a kind of plant. People plant it and cut it and then they use it to make bread. The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it. They do not eat it right then. They save it because they need to be able to have food in the winter months when plants do not grow. This goes on all summer.

The ants work hard every day. They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home. Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work. They carry more than they need to eat every day. They carry grain they will eat in winter, too. They play sometimes, but most of the time they work.

The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer. They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. They say, We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. But the ants say, No, we have to work.

Soon it is winter, and the grasshoppers are cold. They are hungry, too. They do not have food to eat. Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter.

One day, a grasshopper came to see the ants and he was very hungry. Please, ants, could you help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! said the grasshopper.

The ants asked him, Why didnt you work in summer? We did. Remember, how you played while we worked? You made fun of us and said, All work and no play is no good. Well, now we have food and you are hungry.

The grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. I couldnt help but have fun. We had such a good time.

The ants said, We are sorry you have no food. We have a lot because we worked hard. You have none because you played. But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors. We want you to live, so we will help you now. But learn from us. Playing is a lot of fun. But you need to work to live.

The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too. You need to work if you want to eat. Next summer, he would work and play, too, just like the ants.

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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:** grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story above the author talks about, "The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows." So from the text what does the word "grain" mean?

- A: A plant
- B: A insect
- C: A season
- D: A home

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A: The boys loved playing outside when it was grain.
  - B: When summer first started grain started to grow from the warm weather.
  - C: My mom screamed because she thought she saw a grain.
  - D: The girls build a house out of grain.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story the grasshopper explains to the ants why he did not work. "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." What does the word "lovely" mean?

- A: Awful
- B: Dry
- C: Wonderful
- D: Weird

**Question:** Use the word "lovely" in the correct sentence.

- A: The parents had a lovely time going to the park because it was raining and they had to go home.
  - B: The teacher had a lovely time on the boat because she had nothing to drink.
  - C: The boys had a lovely time in the all pink store for girls.
  - D: The classroom had a lovely day outside because the weather was so nice.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story above the author says, "The grasshopper had learned a lesson." What does the word "lesson" mean?

- A: Craziiness
- B: What time to do something
- C: How to play
- D: Teaching in life

**Question:** Use the word "lesson" in the correct sentence.

- A: Our first lesson from our teacher was about ants.
  - B: Our lesson of a friend went around and pants people.
  - C: We threw our lesson at the frog.
  - D: The lesson looked like a piece of pie.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Neighbors **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in this story says "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors." What does the word "neighbors" mean?

- A: A dog walker
- B: A flower
- C: A friend that ives close
- D: A type of food

**Question:** Which one of these sentence uses the word "neighbors" correctly?

- A: The neighbor looked so beautiful blowing in the wind.
  - B: The neighbor waves hello as I walked to my mail box.
  - C: I saw a neighbor when I went to a different state.
  - D: I ate the neighbor with great delight.
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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 - Grasshopper's Lesson

The story talks about how the grasshopper had learn a lesson. What was that lesson? Be specific.

### 2 - Differences

Why didn't the ants and grasshoppers work together to collect the grain for winter? Give examples from text.

### 3 - Grasshopper

Why did the grasshopper think it was ok to have fun and not work during the winter? Be specific and give at least one example.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** In the story it talks about different season, winter, summer, and spring.?Explain each season, then pick your favorite?season and explain why its your favorite?season. Make sure to provide specific examples. You are to write a minimum?of 3 paragraphs.?

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