



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Jenna Wilhite

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: How the Firefly Got Its Light

Lesson Description: Students learn through a folklore passage called \"How the Firefly Got Its Light\" paired with 4 vocabulary multiple choice questions, 3 discussion questions and one writing essay portion.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.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.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.4: With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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: This is a story based on an old folktale. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Using context clues, what does the word 'folklore' mean when describing this type of story?

- A: Fiction
- B: Nonfiction
- C: Popular myth/belief
- D: Famous story

Question: Which of the following sentences correctly use the word 'folklore'?

- A: The people of folklore came to visit us.
 - B: I folklore to my friends.
 - C: The people folklore about their life.
 - D: I read a folklore about a bear.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Hear it buzz. **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word 'buzz' mean in the following sentence from the paragraph: "Hear it buzz"?

- A: Humming sound
- B: Active atmosphere
- C: Moving quickly
- D: A rumor

Question: Which sentence correctly uses the word 'buzz' when the meaning is of an active atmosphere?

- A: Sarah buzzed past the lunch line.
 - B: The bug buzzed past Sarah's ear.
 - C: Sarah went to a restaurant that was all the buzz around town.
 - D: Sarah heard the buzz about her friend's secret.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: It used the secret. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What is the meaning of word 'secret' when used in the sentence "It used the secret."?

- A: Confidentiality
- B: Confidential matter
- C: Mystery
- D: Unforthcoming

Question: Which of the following sentences use 'secret' correctly?

- A: I saw a secret on the street.
 - B: The secret dog came up behind me.
 - C: I secret the story to my friend.
 - D: I was told the secret to making good brownies.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: I will shine my light to welcome you. **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word 'welcome' mean in the sentence: "I will shine my light to welcome you."?

- A: Desire
- B: Greet
- C: Dismiss
- D: Agree

Question: Which of the following dialogue sentences uses the word 'welcome' as used in the story?

- A: "You're welcome!"
 - B: "Welcome to the family."
 - C: "I did welcome the outcome."
 - D: "Where did you place the welcome?"
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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 does the moon have no friends?

Explain why the moon has no friends and is therefore asking the fly to stay up for him in exchange for the secret.

2 - Why would the mice not benefit from a light?

The fly benefitted from the light but the mice said it was too dangerous for them to have a light, why is that?

3 - How did the moon and fly help each other?

What did the moon want and what did the fly want, was it an even exchange?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post a 200 words essay on what would be a good trade for the mouse in the story simliar to the trade of the moon's friendship and the fly's light. Make sure to provide a detailed answer.

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