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## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Ali Marry

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Helping others, reflecting, reading, writing

**Lesson Description:** With their knowledge from the reading students will be able to identify and define words with their proper meaning. The students will also answer questions related to the text and write a short answer that best supports what they learned and shows connections. From the story students learned the importance of helping others. During the last activity students will reflect on a time someone helped them.

### **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.RF.3.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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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.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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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:** Secret **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "The moon told the fly the secret." What does the word "secret" mean in this sentence?

- A: Feelings
- B: A fictional story
- C: information that is not known by others
- D: List of rules

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "secret" correctly?

- A: I kept my mom's surprise party a secret.
  - B: The Secretary attended the parade.
  - C: I secreted the candy under my pillow.
  - D: The secrets are pouring out of the cup.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Heard **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The moon heard the fly..." What does "heard" mean in this sentence?

- A: Showed
- B: Listened to
- C: Ignored
- D: Spoke to

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "heard" correctly?

- A: I will herd the animals into the barn.
  - B: I hearded my foot at practice.
  - C: There are no heard questions on the test.
  - D: I heard the baby cry.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Pretty **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "See how pretty. Look at the colors. Look at the big wings..." What does the word "pretty" mean in the sentence?

- A: Good-looking
- B: Dry
- C: Plain
- D: Broken

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "pretty" correctly?

- A: My shoes were pretty much ruined from the mud.
  - B: I wore a pretty dress to the ball.
  - C: I prettied around the house.
  - D: I saw how pretty the dog wanted the food.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Night **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The fly stayed awake one night." What does "night" mean in this sentence?

- A: During the day
- B: A candy bar
- C: A special holiday
- D: The time between dusk and dawn

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "night" correctly?

- A: It is normally sunny during night time.
  - B: There was a knight guarding the castle.
  - C: One night I couldn't sleep.
  - D: During the night is when you should do your homework.
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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 - The moon told the fly a secret.

Why does the moon tell the fly a secret in this story??

### 2 - Mother of the mouse

What did the mouse's mother mean by NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide. to the mouse??

### 3 - Who helped the fly shine and how?

Who helped the fly shine at night and what did they do to help??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write on a time that a friend, family member, or peer helped you to accomplish something just like how the moon helped the fly. Also describe how you felt before and after they helped. You can also describe any challenges you faced along the way. Make sure to have at least two complete paragraphs.

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