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## A Lesson on The Lion and the Spider by Victoria Stuckey

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Character perspective

**Lesson Description:** ELA - Reading Characters Perspective

Students will read the passage, answer vocabulary questions, answer critical questions and write an essay creating a different ending to the story.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3a: Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

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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 Lion and the Spider

by

**Content:** It was a sunny day in the grassland. The lion had slept well. It was fierce when it hunted. But today it was not hungry yet. It would hunt for food later in the day. Right now, all it wanted to do was relax. It stretched out and watched the grass.

Then it noticed a spider. The spider was climbing on a plant. Then the spider jumped to the next plant and left a string between them. It was making a web. The lion watched for a while. How clever you are, it said to the spider. How did you learn to do that?

The spider said, My mother showed me how to do this. I learned from her. And I have taught my children how to make webs.

The lion watched a while longer. Then it asked the spider, But why do you do that when you could just grab your food, the way I do?

I am just a small animal. I cannot run fast. So I do not eat insects that run. I cannot fly. I eat flies. So with my web I can catch them.

The lion said, Could you make me a web that could catch an animal for me to eat? Then I would not have to run after them either?

The spider thought about that. At first she thought the lion was joking. But he was not.

I cant do that, she said. My web can catch a fly. But it could not catch a big animal. And you could not live by eating flies.

Just then a fly flew into the spiders web. She went to get it. She wrapped it up for her children. Then she went back to spinning more of the web.

The lion was very selfish. It was jealous of the spider. It did not have to work hard for its food. And it would not help him get his food. So it slapped at the spider web and broke it. But the spider jumped onto the lions back. And it bit the lion.

Now you will remember me, said the spider as she hopped off and into the grass. Think before you are mean to another animal. We are all special. And some of us may be small but very smart.

The lion tried to scratch its back but could not reach the spider bite. It itched for days. The lion remembered the smart spider for a long time.

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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:** Grassland **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does a lion do in a grassland?

- A: sleeps
- B: lives
- C: hunts
- D: all of the above

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

- A: A grassland is a frozen tundra.
  - B: A lion sleeps, lives, and hunts in a grassland.
  - C: The grassland is a construction sight.
  - D: Grasslands are apart of the Pacific Ocean.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Fierce **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The lion in the story is described as "fierce" when it hunted, what is the best meaning for the word "fierce"?

- A: mad
- B: sad
- C: fun
- D: playful

**Question:** Which sentence best describes how to use the word "fierce"?

- A: The baby is fierce while it sleeps.
  - B: A butterflies wings are fierce.
  - C: The lion is fierce when it chases after its prey.
  - D: A baby lion cub is fierce.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Insect **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** An insect is a...

- A: mammal
- B: creature with six legs
- C: bird
- D: fish

**Question:** Pick the sentence that best shows what an insect is.

- A: An insect is a creature with six legs and antennas.
  - B: A spider has eight legs, but it is still an insect.
  - C: Insects have fur and hibernate.
  - D: The insect is a creature that can use magic.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Spinning **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In this story "spinning" means that...

- A: a wheel turning
- B: a spider is catching its prey
- C: something is moving
- D: a lion is hunting

**Question:** How is the word "spinning" correctly used in a sentence?

- A: I am spinning my hair.
  - B: The dog is spinning the car around.
  - C: She is spinning onto the playground.
  - D: A spider is spinning its web to catch a fly.
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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 - Spider's Perspective

What evidence supports how the spider is feeling when the lion slaps the spiders web and breaks it?

### 2 - Lion's Perspective

What conclusions can you draw about how the lion learned his lesson from being bit by the spider?

### 3 - Spider and Lion Perspective

What further information would support what the lion and the spider learned from each other?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Create a different ending where the spider spins a web for the lion to catch his food. How would this change the lions character?

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