



A Lesson on City Mouse- a Fable by Erica Wooten

Grade Level: Grade 6

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Fables, Reading comprehension, Writing, Moral of the Story

Lesson Description: Teaches students how to distinguish what a moral in a story is. The lesson is designed to expand Vocabulary and word meaning. Students will be required to show their reading and comprehension through multiple choice, short answer/discussion questions, and a short written essay.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3: Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.5c: Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, unwhasteful, thrifty).

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.

City Mouse- a Fable

by

Content: Once a little mouse who lived in the country invited a little mouse from the city to visit him. When the little City Mouse sat down to dinner he was surprised to find that the Country Mouse had nothing to eat except barley and grain.

Really, he said, you do not live well at all; you should see how I live! I have all sorts of fine things to eat every day. You must come to visit me and see how nice it is to live in the city.

The little Country Mouse was glad to do this, and after a while, he went to the city to visit his friend. The very first place that the City Mouse took the Country Mouse to see was the kitchen cupboard of the house where he lived. There, on the lowest shelf, behind some stone jars, stood a big paper bag of brown sugar. The little City Mouse gnawed a hole in the bag and invited his friend to nibble for himself.

The two little mice nibbled and nibbled and nibbled, and the Country Mouse thought he had never tasted anything so delicious in his life. He was just thinking how lucky the City Mouse was, when suddenly the door opened with a bang, and in came the cook to get some flour.

Run! whispered the City Mouse. And they ran as fast as they could to the little hole where they had come in. The little Country Mouse was shaking all over when they got safely away, but the little City Mouse said, That is nothing; she will soon go away and then we can go back.

After the cook had gone away and shut the door, they stole softly back, and this time the City Mouse had something new to show: he took the little Country Mouse into a corner on the top shelf, where a big jar of dried prunes stood open. After much tugging and pulling, they got a large dried prune out of the jar on to the shelf and began to nibble at it. This was even better than the brown sugar. The little Country Mouse liked the taste so much that he could hardly nibble fast enough. But all at once, in the midst of their eating, there came a scratching at the door and a sharp, loud MIAOUW!

What is that? said the Country Mouse. The City Mouse just whispered, Sh! and ran as fast as he could to the hole. The Country Mouse ran after, you may be sure, as fast as HE could. As soon as they were out of danger, the City Mouse said, That was the old Cat; she is the best mouser in town, if she once gets you, you are lost. Imagine you were eating dinner and a lion came. That was how they felt.

This is very terrible, said the Country Mouse; let's not go back to the cupboard again.

No, said the City Mouse, I'll take you to the cellar; there is something special there.

The City Mouse took his little friend down the cellar stairs and into a big cupboard where there were many shelves. On the shelves were jars of butter and cheeses in bags and out of bags. Overhead hung bunches of sausages, and there were spicy apples in barrels standing about. It smelled so good that it went to the little Country Mouse's head. He ran along the shelf and nibbled at a cheese here, and a bit of butter there, until he saw an especially rich, very delicious-smelling piece of cheese on a queer little stand in a corner. He was just on the point of putting his teeth into the cheese when the City Mouse saw him.

Stop! Stop! cried the City Mouse. That is a trap!

The little Country Mouse stopped and said, What is a trap?

That thing is a trap, said the little City Mouse. The minute you touch the cheese with your teeth something comes down on your head hard, and you're dead.

The little Country Mouse looked at the trap, he looked at the cheese, and he looked at the little City Mouse. If you'll excuse me, he said, I think I will go home. I'd rather have barley and grain to eat and eat it in peace and comfort, than have brown sugar and dried prunes and cheese, and be frightened all the time.

The little Country Mouse went back home, and there he stayed all the rest of his life.

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: Fine **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I have all sorts of fine things to eat every day." What does the word "fine" mean in this sentence.

A: Good/High Quality.

B: Bad.

C: Yucky.

D: Rotten.

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

A: The cook used vegetables that were 3 months old in his salad, he thought they were fine.

B: The car was demolished in the accident, it was in fine condition.

C: The delicate Robe was made from fine fabrics.

D: The fine quality of the steak could be compared to rotten roadkill.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Nibble **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "The little Country Mouse liked the taste so much that he could hardly nibble fast enough." What does the word "nibble" mean in this sentence?

A: To eat or chew in small bites.

B: To eat something on one big bite.

C: To finish your dinner in a gulp.

D: To refuse to eat your dinner when your mother tells you to.

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "nibble" correctly.

A: She was so thirsty she finished her drink in one nibble.

B: The man with the ax took 5 nibbles at the tree and down it went.

C: I was not very hungry for dinner, I just nibbled at it.

D: The lion ate the mouse in one huge nibble.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Midst **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: A quote from the story is: "But all at once, in the midst of their eating, there came a scratching at the door and a sharp, loud ?MIAOUW!?. What do you think the word "midst" means in this sentence?

A: After the mice were done eating and started playing.

B: In the middle of.

C: Before they started eating.

D: While they were deciding what they should eat.

Question: Which sentence uses to word "Midst" correctly?

A: The wind was blowing so hard, it midst my hat right off my head.

B: The rain was like midst on my windshield.

C: The midst Olympics were my favorite.

D: We were in the midst of our run on the beach when it started to rain.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Queer **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the mouse refers to a stand in the corner with delicious smelling cheese on it. He calls the stand "queer." What do you think the word "queer" means in this story?

A: strange or odd.

B: bright and colorful.

C: A cheese stand from the deli.

D: A shell you would find on the beach in Mexico.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "queer" correctly.

A: I went to the queer to go fishing.

B: That necklace appeals to someone with queer taste, it is unique and one of a kind.

C: While hunting, my father shot 4 queer.

D: The Farris Wheel is my favorite ride at the queer.

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 did the City Mouse ask

Why did the City Mouse want the Country Mouse to come visit him? How would you compare this to the saying The grass isn't always green on the other side?

2 - The Mouse Trap

Why did the City Mouse warn the Country Mouse about the trap? How did he know that it was a Mouse Trap and not a plain stand with cheese on it?

3 - Moral of the Story

The little Country Mouse looked at the trap, he looked at the cheese, and he looked at the little City Mouse. If you'll excuse me, he said, I think I will go home. I'd rather have barley and grain to eat and eat it in peace and comfort, than have brown sugar and dried prunes and cheese, and be frightened all the time. ?

This is the ending of the story. In your own opinion, what is the Moral of this story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post a short answer essay here, please make it 3-4 paragraphs in length. You are to discuss when you feel the Country Mouse started to change his opinion on how lucky the City Mouse was, please give examples of this. Also think about the ending of the story when the Country Mouse says I'd rather have barley and grain to eat and eat it in peace and comfort.... Why do you think he felt this way? If you were the mouse, which would you choose and why?

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