



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Krystal Hydes

Grade Level: Grade 6

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Shoemaker, leather, elves, stitch, customer, prosperous

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students are encouraged to draw inferences from the story by answering questions that are not based on simple recall. The goal of this lesson is to broaden the students' vocabulary and enhance their use of new words and phrases.

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.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.4: Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

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 Elves and the Shoemaker

by

Content: Once upon a time there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor. He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife. At last there came a day when he had nothing left but one piece of leather, big enough to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes, ready to stitch, and left them on the bench; then he said his prayers and went to bed, trusting that he could finish the shoes the next day and sell them.

Early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench and discovered there a pair of shoes, beautifully made. The leather was gone, and there was no sign of anyone having been there. The shoemaker and his wife did not know what to make of it. Then the first customer who came was so pleased with the beautiful shoes that he bought them, and paid so much that the shoemaker was able to buy leather enough for two pairs.

Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning. But when morning came, two pairs of shoes lay on the bench, most beautifully made, and no sign of anyone who had been there. It was another puzzle. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money.

Once more he cut out the shoes and left them on the bench. As before, the next morning he discovered that all four pairs were made.

It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous. They were concerned, they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room.

Just as the clock struck twelve, the door opened softly and two tiny elves came dancing into the room, hopped on to the bench, and began to put the pieces together. They were quiet, they made little conversation, and they had brought tiny scissors and hammers and thread. Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work. No one ever worked so fast as they. In almost no time all the shoes were stitched and finished. Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window.

The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?

I should like to make them some pretty clothes, said the wife.

I will make the shoes if you will make the coats, said her husband.

That very day they worked on this surprise for the elves. The wife cut out two tiny, tiny coats of green, two little pairs of trousers, of white, two very small caps, bright red, and her husband made two little pairs of shoes with long, pointed toes. They made the clothes as good-looking as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons. By Christmas time, they were finished.

On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker cleaned his bench, and on it, instead of leather, he laid the two sets of clothes. Then he and his wife hid away as before, to watch.

Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in. They hopped upon the bench; but when they saw the little clothes there, they laughed and danced for joy. Each one caught up his little coat and things and began to put them on. They were so happy. Then, when the clock struck two, they left smiling.

They never came back any more, but from that day they gave the shoemaker and his wife good luck, so that they never needed any more help.

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: Prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says "It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous." What does the word "prosperous" mean in this sentence?

- A: Sad
- B: Angry
- C: Tired
- D: Successful

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

- A: When the elf lost his shoe, he felt prosperous.
- B: The elves worked very hard to make sure the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous.
- C: The shoemaker became prosperous when the customer yelled at him.
- D: Prosperous shoes are only made by elves.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Promptly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says "Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in." What does the word "promptly" mean in this sentence?

- A: Slowly
- B: Exactly
- C: Quickly
- D: Wisely

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

- A: I have promptly three dogs.
- B: The elves were promptly not very tall.
- C: The car stopped promptly at the red light.
- D: The shoemaker's wife slept promptly.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Stitches **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the author says "They made the clothes as good-looking as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons." What does the word "stitches" mean in this sentence?

- A: A pattern of thread or yarn sewn into fabric
- B: A pain in one's side
- C: A type of material
- D: A shoe

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

- A: The elves played stitches together on the sidewalk.
- B: The shoemaker bought stitches for dinner.
- C: The shirt had stitches sewn around the collar.
- D: The elves had stitches in their side from running too fast.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Sew **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the author says "Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning." In this sentence, what does the word "sew" mean?

- A: Cut
- B: Stitch fabrics together
- C: Glue
- D: Tie

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

- A: The elves ran sew fast that they got stitches in their sides.
- B: When I cannot sleep at night, I sew some warm milk.
- C: The shoes were sew beautiful that the customer ordered three more pairs.
- D: If your shoe is torn, the shoemaker can sew it back together for you.

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 - What is the moral of the story?

The shoemaker and his wife were very poor and suddenly became prosperous with the assistance of secret helpers. Even though they were prosperous the author states, "They were concerned, they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. What is the moral of the story?"

2 - To save or not to save?

In the story, one day the shoemaker finds two pairs of shoes. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money. Why did the shoemaker buy more leather to make more shoes instead of just saving his money?

3 - Why were they hiding?

In the story, the author says "So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room. What was the purpose of the shoemaker and his wife hiding from the elves?"

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For this writing assignment, you are to provide a three or four paragraph response to the following question: What events took place throughout the story that caused the shoemaker and his wife to become prosperous??Be sure to provide specific examples.

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