



A Lesson on The Turtle and the Ducks by Amber Simmons

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: duck, turtle, weather, flying, summer

Lesson Description: Students will read the story and then answer vocabulary questions, answer discussion questions, and write a short essay on a question given about the story. The students will prove they understood what they read by answering these questions.

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.

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.RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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 Turtle and the Ducks

by

Content: Once upon a time, a turtle lived in a pond with two ducks on the earth's lithosphere. They were good friends. The turtle liked to talk. He always had something to say to the ducks. He liked to hear himself say it. He was very friendly.

One summer it was very hot and dry. The pond dried up and became unhygienic. The two ducks saw that they could no longer live there. They decided to move. They would go where there was more water. They told the turtle they were leaving.

Oh, don't leave me behind! begged the turtle. Take me with you.

But you cannot fly! said the Ducks. How can we take you with us?

Take me with you! Take me with you! said the turtle.

The ducks felt so sorry for the turtle. They were kind ducks. They collaborated together to think of a way to help. We have thought of a way, they said. But you have to keep still. We will each take hold of one end of a strong stick. You take the middle in your mouth. Then we will fly up in the air with you and carry you with us. But remember not to talk! If you open your mouth, you will fall.

The turtle said he would not say a word. He was very grateful. So the ducks brought a strong little stick and took hold of the ends, and the turtle bit firmly on the middle. Then the two ducks rose slowly in the air and flew.

When they were above the treetops, the turtle wanted to say, How high we are! But he remembered, and kept still. When they passed another pond he wanted to say, Lets stop here. But he remembered, and stayed silent. Then they came over the town. People looked up and saw them. Look at the ducks carrying a turtle! they shouted. Everyone ran to look. The turtle wanted to say, What business is it of yours? But he didn't. Then he heard the people shout, Isn't it strange?

The turtle forgot everything except that he wanted to say, I am not strange. I am special! He opened his mouth and fell from the sky. Luckily, the turtle fell in a bush. But the turtle broke its leg and could not walk for weeks. A family felt sorry for the turtle and took it in. The mother said, We will help you. She put a tub in their yard so it could have water. It wasn't a pond. But at least the turtle was alive. He helped her every day by eating weeds in the garden.

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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: lithosphere **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The duck and turtle lived in the pond of the lithosphere. What does the word "lithosphere" mean in this sentence?

- A: A planet
- B: A trampoline
- C: A layer of Earth
- D: A store

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

- A: The students jumped on the lithosphere.
 - B: We ate a piece of the lithosphere.
 - C: The lithosphere was moving everywhere.
 - D: The lithosphere is a layer of the earth.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: unhygienic **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Most of the food is safe to eat, even if the restaurant looks a bit unhygienic. What does the word "unhygienic" mean in this sentence?

- A: Dirty
- B: Clean
- C: Healthy
- D: Good

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

- A: The doctors were very unhygienic and wore gloves during surgery.
 - B: Those plates were dirty and seemed unhygienic to eat off of.
 - C: The restroom was so clean and very unhygienic.
 - D: The unhygienic people showered every day.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: collaborated **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The group collaborated to pick a leader for the project. What does the word "collaborated" mean in this sentence?

- A: Worked together
- B: Worked separately
- C: One person picked
- D: The teacher picked

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

- A: The one coach collaborated to pick a captain.
 - B: The team collaborated to pick a team name.
 - C: The umpire collaborated to make a call.
 - D: The concession stand owner collaborated and counted the drawer himself.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: grateful **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: All of the students were grateful that the teacher gave them extra credit.

- A: Mad
- B: Surprised
- C: Upset
- D: Thankful

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

- A: Students didn't know about the test day, they were very grateful.
 - B: The school was grateful for the donation from the parents.
 - C: Baseball teams are always grateful when they lose.
 - D: The cake was grateful and very big.
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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 - What if animals could talk?

In the story the ducks and turtle talk to each other. If animals could talk would that be a good or bad thing?

2 - The family that helped the turtle

In the story the turtle falls from the sky into a family's yard. If this was your backyard what would you do to help the turtle? If you couldn't keep the turtle what else could you do?

3 - The pond dried up.

According to the text the pond dried up and the animals had to move. What season was it when the pond dried up? If the story didn't tell you what season it was how could you figure out what season it was from the text?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: After reading the story write 2 paragraphs on the way that the ducks tried to help the turtle move with them. Why was it not successful? What would be another idea that the ducks and turtle could try to do? Be creative!

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