



A Lesson on The Turtle and the Ducks by Angela Avery

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: reading, writing, discussion, vocabulary

Lesson Description: First you will read a short story and then answer eight vocabulary questions from the story. Next you will answer three more questions that recall specific events from the story. Lastly, you will write a paragraph about how certain event affected the character and your opinions on the outcome.

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.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5: Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

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

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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. 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. 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. 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 wasnt 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: begged **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "begged" mean in the passage "Oh, don't leave me behind!" begged the turtle. "Take me with you."

- A: laughed
- B: asked
- C: yelled
- D: cried

Question: Chose which sentence uses the word "begged" correctly in a sentence.

- A: I begged up all the leaves in the yard.
 - B: The cat was begged across the street.
 - C: The girl was begged for bed.
 - D: The boy begged his mother for the toy in the window.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Silent **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story the author wrote "When they passed another pond he wanted to say, "Let?s stop here.? But he remembered, and stayed silent." What does the word "silent" mean?

- A: quiet
- B: loud
- C: talkative
- D: noisy

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

- A: The loud lawn mower was silent.
 - B: The girl walked to the silent.
 - C: The horse shoe was put on the silent.
 - D: The man was silent when he checked on his son in bed.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: strange **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the author wrote "Then he heard the people shout, "Isn't it strange!" What does the word strange mean?

- A: mean
- B: weird
- C: normal
- D: cool

Question: Which of the following correctly uses the word "strange"?

- A: She was strange so she dropped the heavy bags.
 - B: The stars strange brightly.
 - C: The girl had a strange laugh.
 - D: A bee strange the flower.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: garden **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does garden mean in the sentence "He helped her every day by eating weeds in the garden."

- A: yard
- B: water
- C: house
- D: person

Question: Which sentences uses the word "garden" correctly?

- A: How much does the garden cost?
 - B: The girl wore the garden yesterday.
 - C: She picked flowers in the garden.
 - D: The garden jumps up and down.
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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 - Why does the turtle fall into the bush?

In the story, the turtle falls and breaks his leg, what happens to make him fall?

2 - Why did the ducks decide to leave?

In the story, the ducks decide to leave the pond, explain why they left.

3 - Moral of the story

What do you think is the reason for this story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: ?

Do you think the turtle was happier with the family or with the ducks? Explain why you picked your answer. Why do you think the author wanted to share this story?

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