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A Lesson on Mousie by Maryssa Kane

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Mousie, vocabulary, 5th grade, writing, language arts

Lesson Description: A language arts lesson integrating discussion, vocabulary, and essay writing based off of a short story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2d: Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.3: Summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) 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.

Mousie

by

Content: Darrell Burton was always very careful. He listened to his teacher, he studied diligently, and he did all of his homework well. Other students sometimes taunted him and said, Don't study so hard. You're such a book-head. They called him Book-head, but Darrell didn't mind. He loved to learn.

This is a story about how he learned science right at home. In fact, he learned about science from experimenting with real animals. Much like scientists observe nature, Darrell did, too. He formed a hypothesis and discovered it to be true. Then he continued to study so he could learn more.

One night, Darrell woke to a strange noise coming from his closet. He stepped out of bed, crossed the floor in his bare feet, and carefully opened his closet door. The noise stopped instantly.

Ah! exclaimed Darrell, I knew it had to be mice making those noises. How I wish I could catch them!

The next morning at breakfast, he told his mother about the noises he had heard, and how he had a hypothesis that the sounds were coming from mice. I will get you a mouse trap, his mother insisted.

I don't want the kind of trap that kills the mice; I only want to catch them so that I can tame them, replied Darrell.

His mother laughed and told him that after he had tamed his mice, he had better keep them well out of her way.

The trap was set, the mice were caught, and sure enough, in just a short time, they were so tame that they would eat right from Darrell's hand. He made a little house for them, and kept it in his bedroom. Whenever he went out, he always shut the door carefully so the mice could not escape.

The other students at school started to call Darrell Mousie because he told them about his mice. He didn't mind what they said.

He read about mice, and he discovered that most of them could live only a short period of time. In fact, most mice might not even live a whole year. This made Darrell resolve to take even greater care of them. He acted like a scientist. He studied the mice closely, but he never gave them names. Instead, he just called them Mouse 1, Mouse 2, and Mouse 3. He took such good care of them that they lived more than a year. When one mouse died, Darrell would set the trap again to get another one.

When Darrell left college, he brought his mice with him. He studied biology, and his college professors said he was a great natural scientist. He learned much more about science. Later, Darrell became a zoologist. That is someone who studies animal life. Today, he is Dr. Darrell Burton, and he works at the zoo. He is in charge of caring for all the animals, including the mice. Some of the mice are exotic creatures from distant places. When he sees them, he smiles.

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: Diligently **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of this passage writes, "He listened to his teacher, he studied diligently, and he did all of his homework..." Using context clues, what does "diligently" mean?

- A:** To be easily distracted.
- B:** To have a bad reputation.
- C:** To work hard and earnestly.
- D:** To work slowly and sporadically.

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

- A:** Laura diligently failed the test because she didn't study.
- B:** George did not know his multiplication tables well, but he worked diligently and got an A on his math test!
- C:** Elsa diligently lifted weights, so she wasn't very strong.
- D:** Jeff acted diligently, so everyone was scared of him.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Taunted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author writes, "the students sometimes taunted him and said, 'Don't study so hard. You're such a book-head.' What does the word "taunted" mean in this sentence?

- A:** The students made fun of him.
- B:** The students praised him.
- C:** The students asked him to do them a favor.
- D:** The students thought he was dumb.

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "taunted" correctly?

- A:** Fred played outside and taunted another boy his age, so they became fast friends.
- B:** Pam brought her pet monkey to the playground, and the monkey taunted the water.
- C:** Jenna taunted the teacher, so she got a gold star.
- D:** Capri taunted the cat, so the cat got angry and scratched her.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Observe **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Our author writes "Much like scientists observe nature, Darrell did, too." What does the word "observe" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To watch carefully.
- B:** To sing to.
- C:** To laugh at.
- D:** To scare.

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "observe" correctly.

- A:** Myky said she observed at a dog and it almost bit her.
- B:** Christin observed in the kitchen, so the floor was very clean.
- C:** Jackson observed at the movie, and it made his tummy hurt.
- D:** Gina observed the monkeys and saw that they liked to eat bananas.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Hypothesis **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the author says "He formed a hypothesis and discovered it to be true." What does the word hypothesis mean?

- A:** A ball of rubber that you can bounce.
- B:** A pair of very large glasses.
- C:** An assumption or guess based on the evidence observed.
- D:** A nightmare.

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

- A:** She found a hypothesis on the ground and threw it to her friend.
- B:** He put on his hypothesis and looked in the mirror.
- C:** She put her plants together and formed the hypothesis that they would lean to the left.
- D:** He had a hypothesis while he was asleep, so he woke up feeling sad.

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 do you think Darrell doesn't to kill the mice?

Darrell says I don't want the kind of trap that kills the mice; I only want to catch them so that I can tame them...

Why do you think he doesn't want a trap that kills the mice? ?Why does he want to tame them??

2 - Why did Darrell call his mice...

In the story, Darrell ...studied the mice closely, but he never gave them names. Instead, he just called them Mouse 1, Mouse 2, and Mouse 3.?

Why do you think he didn't give them personal names? ?Explain. ?

3 - How did Darrell know it was mice...?

In the beggining of the story,?Darrell says?I knew it had to be mice making those noises. How I wish I could catch them!

How do you think he knew it was mice making the noise? ?Explain why. ?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Why do you think Mousie became a zoologist? Was it a good career choice for him? Write and post a 5 paragraph essay here. Make sure to provide at least 3 specific examples and follow our 5 paragraph essay format.

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