



A Lesson on The Gift by Dana Johnson

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Vocabulary/Compare and Contrast/Essay

Lesson Description: The lesson on The Gift is a lesson with four vocabulary words, a brief discussion board discussing the main details and, a short essay on the students own experience like the one in the story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3d: Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

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 Gift

by

Content: One windy day in March, Mary Miller was on her way to school when she looked in a store window. She saw a lovely red apples. Oh, she said, how lovely! If only Mamma could have one!

Marys mother was very poor. She had been a nurse ever since Marys father died. She had worked hard to earn a living for herself and Mary. But now she had become sick. She was obliged to lie in bed all day, and when Mary was away at school, the house was very lonesome. She missed her little angel. That is what she called Mary. Mary took care of her mother. She cooked her food. Mostly she cooked soup. They could not afford fresh fruit. She would sing to her at night.

She was usually a good student, but that day she made so many mistakes that the teacher looked at her in surprise. She was not paying attention. She was thinking about her mother and the apples.

When school was dismissed, Mary started home. She had gone only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet. Running quickly forward she picked it up. There must be a good deal of money in it, thought Mary. How I wish I could keep it. Then I could buy Mamma a red apple and so many other things she needs.

She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Touching him on the arm, she said, Please, Sir, you dropped your wallet.

Thank you, said the man taking the wallet. Then noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, Why did you not keep the wallet?

Because that would be stealing, replied Mary. But, she continued honestly, before I thought I must give it back to you, I did wish I could keep it, for then I could buy Mamma a red apple.

He smiled kindly and said, You are a good little girl to return my wallet. I would like to give you a little present and then you can buy a red apple. He handed her a dollar and then said goodbye.

Mary was so surprised that she ran to the store. The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning. He quickly picked out the biggest, roundest, reddest apple he could find. He took it out to Mary and said, Would you like this one?

She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it. She thanked him for my mother, and he smiled and gave her another. For you, too, he said. When Mary reached home with her treasures, she found her mother fast asleep. She put the apples and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke.

When Mrs. Miller was told the wonderful story, she kissed her little daughter and said, You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful.

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: Dismissed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "When school was dismissed, Mary started home." What does the word "dismissed" mean in the sentence?

- A: Carried
- B: Forced to stay
- C: Allowed to leave
- D: Beginning

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

- A: Sally's parents dismissed her from the table after she finished dinner.
- B: The worker dismissed the dog in the yard for running away.
- C: She dismissed the pile of wood to the fire.
- D: The teacher opened the book and dismissed the story.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "She saw lovely red apples." What does the word "lovely" mean in this sentence?

- A: Charming
- B: Beautiful
- C: Colorful
- D: Huge

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

- A: The piano was so lovely it would not fit through the door.
- B: The thorns on the rose felt so lovely.
- C: My mother bought me a lovely dress to wear to the party.
- D: I fell off my bike and it felt lovely.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Wallet **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in the story says "She had gone only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet." What does the word "wallet" mean?

- A: phone
- B: briefcase
- C: holder of money
- D: grocery bag

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

- A: My mom was talking to my dad on her wallet.
- B: After school, my teacher put all of our papers in her wallet to grade later.
- C: The worker at the market put our groceries in the wallet.
- D: My dad put his change from the groceries in his wallet.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Plate **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "She put the apples and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke." What does the word plate mean in this sentence?

- A: Table
- B: Cabinet on the wall
- C: Flat dish used to serve food
- D: Blanket on a bed

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

- A: My mother put a table cloth on the plate.
- B: After dinner, I went to my room and folded the plate on my bed.
- C: My dad told me the new toy car I have has a metal plate on the hood.
- D: Tommy brought his sister a plate full of cookies as a surprise.

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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 - She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man.

After the man dropped his wallet, Mary wished she could keep it. She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Why did she feel it would not be right to keep his wallet?

2 - She took the apple and gave him the dollar. "No charge," he said, returning it.

Why do you think the store owner decided not to charge Mary for the apples?

3 - What is the moral of the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a minimum of 300 words explaining a time when you were faced with a decision to do the right thing. Give specific details of the outcome of your decision, even if you did not chose to do?the right thing. Submit your assignment using the box below.

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