
A Lesson on City Mouse - A Fable

by Amanda Meredith

Grade Level: Grade 6

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, and Recognizing new words and sentence structure.

Lesson Description: This lesson is intended to help students with their reading, writing, and comprehension learning abilities. This lesson includes recognizing new vocabulary words and defining their meaning. As well as enhancing a students brainstorming abilities when reading a new story. Brainstorming while reading the story will help students understand what they are reading as well as what questions they are going to have to answer once the reading is complete. This lesson tells the story of two different lives of two special mice. I feel students can understand and relate to this lesson's important meaning. That sometimes it is better off to live a life of safety then to be running and hiding all the time.

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.6.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

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.RL.6.6: Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

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.

City Mouse - A Fable

by

Content: Once a little mouse who lived in the country invited a little mouse from the city to visit him. When the little City Mouse sat down to dinner he was surprised to find that the Country Mouse had nothing to eat except barley and grain.

Really, he said, you do not live well at all; you should see how I live! I have all sorts of fine things to eat every day. You must come to visit me and see how nice it is to live in the city.

The little Country Mouse was glad to do this, and after a while, he went to the city to visit his friend. The very first place that the City Mouse took the Country Mouse to see was the kitchen cupboard of the house where he lived. There, on the lowest shelf, behind some stone jars, stood a big paper bag of brown sugar. The little City Mouse gnawed a hole in the bag and invited his friend to nibble for himself.

The two little mice nibbled and nibbled and nibbled, and the Country Mouse thought he had never tasted anything so delicious in his life. He was just thinking how lucky the City Mouse was, when suddenly the door opened with a bang, and in came the cook to get some flour.

Run! whispered the City Mouse. And they ran as fast as they could to the little hole where they had come in. The little Country Mouse was shaking all over when they got safely away, but the little City Mouse said, That is nothing; she will soon go away and then we can go back.

After the cook had gone away and shut the door, they stole softly back, and this time the City Mouse had something new to show: he took the little Country Mouse into a corner on the top shelf, where a big jar of dried prunes stood open. After much tugging and pulling, they got a large dried prune out of the jar on to the shelf and began to nibble at it. This was even better than the brown sugar. The little Country Mouse liked the taste so much that he could hardly nibble fast enough. But all at once, in the midst of their eating, there came a scratching at the door and a sharp, loud MIAOUW!

What is that? said the Country Mouse. The City Mouse just whispered, Sh! and ran as fast as he could to the hole. The Country Mouse ran after, you may be sure, as fast as HE could. As soon as they were out of danger, the City Mouse said, That was the old Cat; she is the best mouser in town, - if she once gets you, you are lost. Imagine you were eating dinner and a lion came. That was how they felt.

This is very terrible, said the Country Mouse; lets not go back to the cupboard again.

No, said the City Mouse, Ill take you to the cellar; there is something special there.

The City Mouse took his little friend down the cellar stairs and into a big cupboard where there were many shelves. On the shelves were jars of butter and cheeses in bags and out of bags. Overhead hung bunches of sausages, and there were spicy apples in barrels standing about. It smelled so good that it went to the little Country Mouse's head.

He ran along the shelf and nibbled at a cheese here, and a bit of butter there, until he saw an especially rich, very delicious-smelling piece of cheese on a queer little stand in a corner. He was just on the point of putting his teeth into the cheese when the City Mouse saw him.

Stop! Stop! cried the City Mouse. That is a trap!

The little Country Mouse stopped and said, What is a trap?

That thing is a trap, said the little City Mouse. The minute you touch the cheese with your teeth something comes down on your head hard, and you're dead.

The little Country Mouse looked at the trap, he looked at the cheese, and he looked at the little City Mouse. If you'll excuse me, he said, I think I will go home. I'd rather have barley and grain to eat and eat it in peace and comfort, than have brown sugar and dried prunes and cheese, - and be frightened all the time.

The little Country Mouse went back home, and there he stayed all the rest of his life.

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: Fine **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: I have all sorts of "fine" things to eat everyday. What does the word "fine" mean in this sentence?

- A: Of high quality
- B: Gross and unappealing
- C: Hazardous
- D: Unhealthy

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

- A: I feel fine today.
- B: This was a fine piece of filmmaking.
- C: Fine, I'll do it then.
- D: You are drawing close to the fine line little Missy.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Gnawed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The little city mouse "gnawed" a hole in the bag and invited his friend to nibble for himself. What does the word "gnawed" mean in this sentence?

- A: Cause harm to another something or someone.
- B: Bite or nibble at something persistently.
- C: Jump with excitement.
- D: Swallow or drink abruptly.

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

- A: The Beavers gnawed the bark of birch, poplar, and willow trees.
- B: My stomach was so upset the sounds I heard were gnawing.
- C: The gnawed helicopter was loud and abrupt.
- D: The smooth edges of the leaves were gnawed.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Safely away **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The little country mouse was shaking all over when they got "safely away." What does "safely away" mean in this sentence?

- A: in harms way
- B: Not in danger
- C: Caught out in the open
- D: Eaten by the cat

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "safely away" correctly?

- A: Safely away from the fire, I began to dial 911.
- B: The cat in on my tail I must be safely away.
- C: I got safely away from the lion, but still got bit.
- D: Safely away stood the robber, right where I was standing.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Stood open **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Where a big jar of dried prunes "stood open." What does the phrase "stood open" mean in this sentence?

- A: Hard to reach or get to
- B: Easy to reach or get to
- C: Broken and spilled all over the shelf
- D: Spoiled or rotten

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "stood open" correctly?

- A: The kitchen door stood open so she went in.
- B: I stood open and couldn't believe my eyes.
- C: She stood open and the door closed.
- D: The cat stood open and wasn't able to get the mice.

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Task 2: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on how you think?the country mouse felt in the beginning, middle, and end of this fable. Write how you feel the country mouse felt when he first met the city mouse? What kind of emotions was he experiecing during his visit with the city mouse??And how do you think the country mouse feels about his visit with the city mouse at the end of the story??

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Task 3: 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 city mouse feel the country mouse does not live well at all?

Why do you feel as the reader of this story, that the city mouse felt the country mouse did not live well at all? What remarks did the city mouse make to give you that idea?

2 - What kind of attitude did the city mouse have?

What kind of attitude did the city mouse have when showing the country mouse all of his food and how he lived?

3 - Do you think the city mouse was scared for the country mouse?

How do you think the city mouse felt when his friend the country mouse almost ended his life by going for the cheese on the mouse trap?

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