



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Christopher Bailey

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Moral Discussion

Lesson Description: Students will read a short passage about "The Elves and the Shoemaker", single out key vocabulary words and define their meanings. After students learn vocabulary they will move on to recognize each word used correctly in a sentence. Finally students will engage in open dialogue about events that happened within the story and do critical thinking about why the old couple did what they did and ask what they would do in that situation.

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.RI.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.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5b: Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are friendly or helpful).

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 Elves and the Shoemaker

by

Content: Once upon a time there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor. He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife. At last there came a day when he had nothing left but one piece of leather, big enough to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes, ready to stitch, and left them on the bench; then he said his prayers and went to bed, trusting that he could finish the shoes the next day and sell them.

Early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench and discovered there a pair of shoes, beautifully made. The leather was gone, and there was no sign of anyone having been there. The shoemaker and his wife did not know what to make of it. Then the first customer who came was so pleased with the beautiful shoes that he bought them, and paid so much that the shoemaker was able to buy leather enough for two pairs.

Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning. But when morning came, two pairs of shoes lay on the bench, most beautifully made, and no sign of anyone who had been there. It was another puzzle. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money.

Once more he cut out the shoes and left them on the bench. As before, the next morning he discovered that all four pairs were made.

It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous. They were concerned, they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room.

Just as the clock struck twelve, the door opened softly and two tiny elves came dancing into the room, hopped on to the bench, and began to put the pieces together. They were quiet, they made little conversation, and they had brought tiny scissors and hammers and thread. Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work. No one ever worked so fast as they. In almost no time all the shoes were stitched and finished. Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window.

The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?

I should like to make them some pretty clothes, said the wife.

I will make the shoes if you will make the coats, said her husband.

That very day they worked on this surprise for the elves. The wife cut out two tiny, tiny coats of green, two little pairs of trousers, of white, two very small caps, bright red, and her husband made two little pairs of shoes with long, pointed toes. They made the clothes as good-looking as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons. By Christmas time, they were finished.

On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker cleaned his bench, and on it, instead of leather, he laid the two sets of clothes. Then he and his wife hid away as before, to watch.

Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in. They hopped upon the bench; but when they saw the little clothes there, they laughed and danced for joy. Each one caught up his little coat and things and began to put them on. They were so happy. Then, when the clock struck two, they left smiling.

They never came back any more, but from that day they gave the shoemaker and his wife good luck, so that they never needed any more help.

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: keep **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "keep" mean in the sentence, "He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife."?

- A: To have something
- B: To support yourself
- C: A type of seaweed
- D: To hold something

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "keep" like in the story.

- A: Are you going to keep those?
- B: If you keep annoying him, he will get angry.
- C: Let's play keep away.
- D: That boy needs to earn his keep.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: puzzle **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "puzzle" mean in the sentence "It was another puzzle."?

- A: a mystery
- B: a game
- C: the shoe's
- D: a 100 pieces

Question: What word could you use to replace "puzzle" in the sentence?

- A: jigsaw
- B: game
- C: secret
- D: riddle

Q: 3 WordPhrase: prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "prosperous" mean in the sentence "It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous."?

- A: successful
- B: failure
- C: a chemical
- D: another word for photograph

Question: Use the word "prosperous" correctly in a sentence.

- A: Prosperous is an element on the periodic table.
- B: Prosperous is one of those dwarfs from Lord of the Ring right?
- C: Live long and prosperous.
- D: Prosperous are people who dig for gold.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: concerned **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "concerned" mean in the sentence, "They were concerned."?

- A: reassured
- B: confused
- C: hungry
- D: worried

Question: Use the word "concerned" correctly in a sentence.

- A: I am concerned about your health.
- B: Concerned is a type of tree like a conifer.
- C: Concerned this interesting idea...
- D: I have concerned all my options and have chose to go with number 1.

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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 would you do?

What would you do if you were the shoemaker and his wife and you saw elves?

2 - Why?

Why did the shoemaker and his wife do such nice things for the elves?

3 - A good deed

Do you think you should do something nice for someone who did something for you without you asking them?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Why do you think the elves helped the shoemaker make shoes? Use your own ideas and exmples from text to support your answer.

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