



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Taylor Clough

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Firefly Lesson

**Lesson Description:** A Language Arts lesson based on a firefly and his new friend the moon. The assignment includes two writing assignments and 2 questions. Each vocabulary question contains a question in which you must define the word and then use that word correctly in a sentence.

### 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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3b: Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context 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.

### How the Firefly Got Its Light

by

**Content:** This is a story based on an old folktale.?

This is a story about long ago. ?There was a little fly. ?It wanted to be special. ?The fly was?sad. ?It did not feel special. ?It looked at the bee and thought it was great. ?Look at how big it is. ?Hear it buzz. ?It looked at the butterfly and said, See how pretty. Look at the colors. ?Look at the?big wings. ?I am just like all the other flies.?

The fly stayed awake one night. ?It was worried. ?It was sad. ?All the other flies were?sleeping. ?A moth was awake. ?So was a mouse. ?They did not notice the fly. ?It was too small. ?It?was hard to see in the dark.?

The fly saw the stars. ?They were shining. ?I want to shine like that. That would be?special.?

The moon heard the fly. ?The moon said, Little fly. ?You can help me. ?If you do, I will help?you. ?I will make you shine.?

How can I help? ??

The moon said, You can be my friend. ?I am lonely at night. ?I come out when it is dark. ?Most animals are asleep. ?If you stay awake every night I will help you shine. ?Then you can be my?friend. ?

Yes, yes, the fly said. ?So the moon helped it. ?The moon told the fly the secret. ?The moon?told the fly how to shine. ??

The next night, the fly stayed awake. ?It used the secret. ?It was shining. ?On, off, it made its?body light. ?It looked like magic.?

Look, said the mouse. Look at that fly. ?How special. ?The mouse said, Id like to shine,?too. ?His mother said, NO! ?That would be dangerous. ?You know we need to be able to hide.?

The fly was very glad. ?The fly told the moon, I will always be your friend. ?When you?come out at night, I will be here. ?I will shine my light to welcome you. ?Then the fly went to?sleep. ?Finally. ?Now I have what I need.?

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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:** folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** At the beginning of the story it says, "This is a story based on an old folktale." What does the word folktale mean?

- A: old story
- B: true story
- C: traditional story
- D: new story

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "folktale" correctly?

- A: The war is a folktale.
- B: The story, little red riding hood, is a folktale.
- C: My cat is a folktale.
- D: The story about Abraham Lincoln is a folktale.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** shining **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The narrator says, "The fly saw the stars. They were shining." What does the word shining mean?

- A: Small
- B: Dark
- C: Dull
- D: Bright

**Question:** Which sentences uses the word "shining" correctly?

- A: The lights on the tree were shining brightly tonight.
- B: The shining flowers were very pretty.
- C: The road was shining with dirt today.
- D: My dog was shining his food quickly.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The mother of the mouse said, "NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide." What does the word dangerous mean?

- A: Fun
- B: Bad
- C: Safe
- D: Good

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: Riding my bike is very dangerous when my dad helps me.
- B: Skateboarding is dangerous with knee pads and a helmet.
- C: It is dangerous to wait to go swimming after eating.
- D: It is dangerous to be outside when it is dark.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** lonely **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The moon said, "You can be my friend. I am lonely at night. I come out when it is dark." What does the word lonely mean?

- A: Sad
- B: Happy
- C: Alone
- D: Mad

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "lonely" correctly?

- A: I feel lonely when I play by myself.
- B: I feel lonely when my parents are around.
- C: I feel lonely when I play with my friends at the park.
- D: I love feeling lonely!

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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 - The flies feelings.

Throughout the story the narrator talks about different feelings the fly feels. In 3-5 sentences compare and contrast how he felt at the beginning of the story to the very end of the story.?

### 2 - The Moon and the Fly

In the story the moon explains to the fly why he is lonely. List the reasons why he is lonely and ways that the fly can help him with these reasons.

### 3 - The Mouse's Mother

When the mouse sees the fly begin to shine he thinks that he is special and wants to shine just like him, but the mouse's mother says that it is dangerous. Why do you think it would be dangerous for the mouse to shine? Explain in 3-5 sentences.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** In the story the moon told the fly to secret on how to shine. In a couple of paragraphs give different ideas on what this secret could be.

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