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A Lesson on The Turtle and the Rabbit by Meredith Bentley

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Vocabulary

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to help students practice their reading and writing skills while also learning new vocabulary words in the story "The Turtle and the Rabbit." This lesson will help students understand the key points the author is trying to address as they read the story. This will help students expand their vocabulary and understanding of the authors message about the story and how it pertains to both the rabbit and the turtle. The activities will provide the students with hands on learning that requires them to reread the passage and understand the meaning of various words.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1c: Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.

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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.

The Turtle and the Rabbit

by

Content: The Rabbit was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. I?have never yet been beaten, said he, when I put forth my full speed. I?challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best.?

The Turtle said quietly, I accept your challenge. I am tired of your?bragging. I am confident that I can beat you.?

That is a good joke, said the Rabbit; I could dance around you all?the way. You will never be able to speed past me. You will not get the?victory.?

Keep your boasting till you've beaten me, answered the Turtle. Shall?we race? I know that I can defeat you.

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The Rabbit darted almost?out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, believing that the Turtle could?never catch him, lay down by the wayside to have a nap. The Turtle never for?a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the?end of the course.?

When the Rabbit awoke from his nap, he saw the Turtle just near the?winning-post. The Rabbit ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw?the Turtle had reached the goal. He was very surprised. He had never lost a?race before.

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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: Beaten **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In our story, the Rabbit says "I have never yet been beaten." What does the word "beaten" mean in this sentence?

- A: to be unhappy
- B: to be hit
- C: to be defeated
- D: to be played

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

- A: The boy had beaten on the drum
- B: I had beaten Charlie in the Spelling Bee
- C: The ingredients are beaten into cake mix
- D: When humans landed on the moon, they achieved victory.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Challenge **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The Rabbit in the story states "I challenge any one here to race me. I am the best." What does the word "challenge" mean in this sentence?

- A: agree
- B: dare
- C: accept
- D: compliment

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

- A: I found the test to be a challenge
- B: When I say you're a shy person, I challenge you
- C: Novels are a challenge to read
- D: I challenge you to a foot race

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Boasting **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the Turtle says to the Rabbit "Keep your boasting till you've beaten me." What does the word "boasting" mean in this sentence?

- A: excessive bragging
- B: excessive happiness
- C: excessive anger
- D: excessive comfort

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

- A: The girl was boasting with joy
- B: When the boy spilled his milk he was boasting
- C: Tony was boasting about winning the soccer game
- D: Andy was boasting and hit Ralph

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Evident **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states in the story, "...it was evident that the Rabbit was too full of himself from the beginning." What does the word "evident" mean?

- A: obvious
- B: unknown
- C: confusing
- D: difficult

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

- A: He was confused about the question so he was evident
- B: It was evident that Mikey had taken the cookie because he had crumbs on his face.
- C: When I couldn't find the answer to the problem, it was evident I understood the question
- D: When my room is dirty, my shoes are evident to find.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

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1 - Turtle vs. Rabbit

Which character in the story would you rather be, the Turtle or the Rabbit? Explain your reasoning.
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2 - Story Theme

What do you believe is the main theme to this story? Give specific examples from the text to support your answers.

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3 - Rabbit's Lesson

What lesson do you think the Rabbit learned by the end of the Race in this story? Do you think his attitude has changed from the beginning of the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write 500 words on what you believe the moral of the story is and why the author might have wrote it. Include examples from the text to support the reason for your opinions. You may want to include how both the Rabbit and Turtle's attitudes affected the outcome of the race.?

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