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## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Stephanie Stophel

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, Hard Work

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use the reading and writing habits they've been practicing on a regular basis. Students will learn valuable: reading, vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension skills. Students will first read the short story in small groups. They will then break off into partners of two and answer the vocabulary and discussion sections below. Lastly, students will work independently on the essay section. Upon completion of all essays students will then go back to their original groups and share their essay stories. Once all students have shared their stories in their groups they will be collected for teacher review of work. This lesson can easily be adapted to other subject areas.

### 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.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.

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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.

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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.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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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 Ants and the Grasshopper

by

**Content:** It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine. They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. They can wait for the warm weather in spring. The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat.

Grain is a kind of plant. People plant it and cut it and then they use it to make bread. The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it. They do not eat it right then. They save it because they need to be able to have food in the winter months when plants do not grow. This goes on all summer.

The ants work hard every day. They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home. Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work. They carry more than they need to eat every day. They carry grain they will eat in winter, too. They play sometimes, but most of the time they work.

The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer. They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. They say, We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. But the ants say, No, we have to work.

Soon it is winter, and the grasshoppers are cold. They are hungry, too. They do not have food to eat. Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter.

One day, a grasshopper came to see the ants and he was very hungry. Please, ants, could you help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! said the grasshopper.

The ants asked him, Why didnt you work in summer? We did. Remember, how you played while we worked? You made fun of us and said, All work and no play is no good. Well, now we have food and you are hungry.

The grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. I couldnt help but have fun. We had such a good time.

The ants said, We are sorry you have no food. We have a lot because we worked hard. You have none because you played. But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors. We want you to live, so we will help you now. But learn from us. Playing is a lot of fun. But you need to work to live.

The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too. You need to work if you want to eat. Next summer, he would work and play, too, just like the ants.

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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:** Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author of our short story said, "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." what does "grain" mean in this sentence?

- A: A type of rain
- B: A type of plant
- C: A type of candy
- D: A type of trap

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

- A: The young girl collected grain and watched them eat the leaves in the big jar.
- B: The baker made pizza dough out of the new grain he bought from the farmer.
- C: A new grain in the car helped the car go faster.
- D: At the camp site they set-up everything with the big grain.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** rush **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "rush" mean in this sentence: "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." ?

- A: to move quickly
- B: to move slowly
- C: to stop what you are doing
- D: to move at a normal pace

**Question:** Chose the correct sentence bellow using the word "rush".

- A: Shannon always rushes on her tests and is the last one finished.
- B: Steven patiently rushed through her picture book.
- C: Savannah rushed out the door to see what the loud noise was outside.
- D: Sarah rushed off all of the dirt that was accumulated on her shoes.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "neighbor" mean in the sentence, "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors." ?

- A: strangers
- B: teammates
- C: doctors
- D: friends

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "neighbor" correctly?

- A: My Uncle needed a pile of neighbors to build the tree fort.
- B: My next door neighbor is helpful when I'm cooking.
- C: There were seven neighbors behind me in line.
- D: There are sixteen neighbors on our football team.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author uses the word "Lovely" in the story he sais "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing..." what does the word "lovely" mean in the sentence?

- A: Beautiful
- B: Sad
- C: Ok
- D: Ugly

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

- A: My Science test was lovely, I think I missed every single problem.
- B: I had a lovely day at the beach with my family and friends.
- C: I think it is just lovely going to the doctors office for a shot.
- D: I had such a horrible lovely day; everything went wrong!

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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 - All Play & No Work

Why did the grasshopper choose to play all summer instead of working?

### 2 - Are you an Ant or a Grasshopper?

If you were in this story do you think you would be more like the ants working hard or the grasshoppers who are playing a lot?

### 3 - Summer or Winter

Why do you think the ants are collecting the grain in the summer time and not in the winter time?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write a 2 paragraph essay on how you would schedule your day if you were a Grasshopper?make sure you have enough time for working hard collecting grain and playing. Make a schdeule that starts from when you wake-up in the morning to when you go to bed at night. Don't forget to try and use your vocabulary words too!

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