



## A Lesson on Nature's Violet Children by Natalie Taylor

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing, application

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to develop a further understanding of what the students have read. They are to apply their knowledge and answer questions from the text/reading. By reading this passage multiple times students can focus their reading and understanding through questions, identification, and gain further insight about the passage.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

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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.

### Nature's Violet Children

by

**Content:** Once on a sunny hill in the woods grew many violets. They had slept quietly through the long winter, tucked up snug and warm in the soft, white snow-blankets that King Winter had sent Mother Nature for her flower babies. Jack Frost had gone pouting over the hills because the little sunbeams would not play with him, and they spoiled his fancy pictures. The tiny raindrops knocked at the door of Mother Nature's great, brown house; and the birds called to the flowers to wake up.

The violets raised their strong, hardy leaves, lifted up their dainty heads, and were glad because spring had come again. While they were so happy, a little girl named Ruth came to the woods in search of wild flowers. How pretty those violets are, she said. I wish I could stay and watch the buds open, but I will take some of them with me and keep them in water, and they will remind me of this sunny hill. Perhaps they will blossom.

Then the violets were frightened and whispered, Please don't take us! Ruth did not hear them. She pulled stem after stem until her small hands were full.

When Ruth got home, she put the buds into a vase of water, and set them in an open window where they could see the blue sky and feel the kisses of the sunbeams. But, the poor little violets drooped for a time, they were so homesick, and whispered to each other, Let us give up and die! A beautiful canary in a cage over their heads sang Cheer up! Chirrup! but they would not listen to him at first. By and by, they said, Why do you sing that to us? How can we be happy away from our beautiful home?

Still the bird sang, Cheer up! Chirrup! The sun is smiling at you and I am singing to you. We are trying to make you glad. How nice it would be if you would only blossom and make some one happy instead of hanging your heads and trying to die. Do you think I like to be shut up in here? If someone would leave the door of my cage open, I would spread my wings and fly out of the window, far away to the green woods and the blue sky. But, while I am here, I may as well sing and be glad. Cheer up! Chirrup!

Perhaps he is right, said the buds, and they lifted up their heads and began to grow. One bright spring morning Mother Nature passed by the window and gave them each a lovely violet cap. Then they were glad, and Ruth was happy, too, because her buds had blossomed.

The cheery canary sang his sweetest song to them. The whole day was bright because Mother Nature's little violet children had tried their best to be happy and so had made others happy, too. As the great red sun went down into the west, he heard the happy bird still singing, Cheer up! Chirrup!

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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.

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**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** Drooped **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "But, the poor little violets drooped for a time, they were so homesick, and whispered to each other?" What does the word "drooped" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To stand up
- B:** To sit down
- C:** To be vertical
- D:** To bend or hang downward

**Question:** Which of the sentences below used the word "drooped" correctly?

- A:** Her eyelids drooped because she was so tired.
- B:** I sat down quickly and drooped.
- C:** I drooped because I saw delicious cookies.
- D:** My dogs drooped and braked loudly.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Pouting **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "Jack Frost had gone pouting over the hills because the little sunbeams would not play with him?" What does the word "pouting" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To show disappointment; to sulk
- B:** Happiness
- C:** Opinion
- D:** To run around

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

- A:** Cleaning my room pouting was very fun and easy.
- B:** I bought a pouting today and I was very happy.
- C:** Sally's mother said that she cannot have dessert before dinner tonight. Sally was upset and went to her room pouting.
- D:** Henry's father told him he can go outside and play. He ran outside pouting.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Dainty **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "The violets raised their strong, hardy leaves, lifted up their dainty heads, and were glad because spring had come again." What does the word "dainty" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Very happy
- B:** Delicate; elegant
- C:** Feeling
- D:** Strong; firm

**Question:** Which one of the following sentences uses the word "dainty" correctly?

- A:** She has on a dainty lace dress and satin slippers.
- B:** Sam tends to say dainty when he is confused.
- C:** My dog is very strong and dainty.
- D:** I have no time to use my dainty book.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Canary **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author says in the story "The cheery canary sang his sweetest song to them." What does the word "canary" mean

- A:** A kind of bird
- B:** A kind of butterfly
- C:** A kind of dog
- D:** A type of snake

**Question:** Which of the following sentences below uses the word "canary" correctly?

- A:** There was a beautiful canary that flew through the sky.
- B:** Her canary meowed.
- C:** Tommy ate canary for dinner.
- D:** Canary's swim through the ocean.

**Q: 5 WordPhrase:** Mother Nature **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in the story says "The tiny raindrops knocked at the door of Mother Nature's great, brown house; and the birds called to the flowers to wake up." What does "Mother Nature" mean in this sentence?

**A:** Wilderness

**B:** Personification of nature forces

**C:** Mother of a baby boy

**D:** Father

**Question:** Which of the following sentences below uses "Mother Nature" correctly?

**A:** The mother nature was strong in Tampa, and the children were bringing out the best in her today.

**B:** My mothers name was nature

**C:** Her mother lives in the nature

**D:** Yesterday mother nature told me to go outside.

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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 was the canary trying to do to the voilets?

What was the canary trying to do to the voilets when singing/chirping? Explain what the canary was trying to do, why?she kept singing to them, and why the voilets were so sad?

### 2 - Mother Nature and the violet cap

Why do you think Mother Nature passed by the window?on a bright spring morning and gave the voilets each a violet cap?

### 3 - They had slept through the long winter

In the first paragraph it says They had slept quietly through the long winter, tucked up snug and warm in the soft, white snow-blankets that King Winter had sent Mother Nature for her flower babies. explain this means and why King Winter had sent Mother Nature white snow-blankets?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For your writing assignment, pick what you thought the theme of the story was?and use examples from the text. In 2-3 paragraphs (minimum 250 words) explain why you think this is the?theme and give examples.?Submit your assignment using the box below.

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