



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Allie Rogers

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, evidence, and thoughts

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to expand the students comprehension, and writing skills based on the idea of being special. Through vocabulary, discussion, and essay questions they will recollect what the fly went through to become his idea of special. Students will be going back to the story to answer the questions leading them to learn new words, and dig deep into their own feelings and thoughts.

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.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

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.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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: Welcome **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I will shine my light to welcome you." What does the word "welcome" mean in this sentence?

- A: Invite somewhere
- B: Open
- C: Greet someone politely
- D: Guide

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "welcome" correctly?

- A: She is not welcome here!
 - B: My dog welcomes me with a big lick when I get home from school.
 - C: You are more than welcome to stay.
 - D: You are very welcome!
- =====

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Special **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special." What does the word "special" mean in this sentence?

- A: Better, or different
- B: Funny
- C: Normal
- D: Lazy

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

- A: Lucy gave her dog special attention.
 - B: You are being rude to your mother on this special occasion.
 - C: You have a very special gift.
 - D: Her typewriter did not come with any special attachments.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Shine **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "I will make you shine." What does the word "shine" mean in this sentence?

- A: Happy
- B: Gloomy
- C: Dark
- D: Give out a bright light

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

- A: Her light shines bright when she smiles.
 - B: The sun always shines.
 - C: Her hair is very shiny today.
 - D: I don't like how the table is shiny.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the story says "NO! That would be dangerous." What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

- A: cause harm
- B: safe
- C: simple
- D: quick

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: I am so excited for the park, it's going to be so dangerous!
 - B: That cotton candy is very dangerous.
 - C: I love my dangerous new necklace.
 - D: The woods at night are very dangerous.
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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 - Why is the fly sad

There was a little fly.? It wanted to be special.? The fly was sad. Why was the fly sad? Explain why the fly was sad using examples and details from the story to show evidence.

2 - Why does the moon help the fly

The moon said, Little fly.? You can help me.? If you do, I will help you.? I will make you shine. The moon did not have to help the fly, but he did. Why did he help the fly? Would you have helped the fly, and why? What would you have asked in return from the fly?

3 - What is the secret

The moon told the fly the secret.? The moon told the fly how to shine. What?do?you think the secret was??How was the fly able to shine? ?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 300 - 500?word essay on what you think it means to be special. The fly from our story felt he was special once he was able to shine, what do you think?makes people, places, or things special and why. Use what you've learned from our story to explain in your own words what being special means to you.

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