



A Lesson on The Elves and the Shoemaker by Lydia Martinez

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: <http://google.com>

Lesson Description: This lesson will help the student with their comprehension in reading skills, understanding of the materials/readings and learning new vocabulary and their meanings.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

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.SL.5.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.2e: Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4c: Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

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 Elves and the Shoemaker

by

Content: Once upon a time there was an honest shoemaker who was very poor. He worked as hard as he could, and still he could not earn enough to keep himself and his wife. At last there came a day when he had nothing left but one piece of leather, big enough to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes, ready to stitch, and left them on the bench; then he said his prayers and went to bed, trusting that he could finish the shoes the next day and sell them.

Bright and early the next morning, he rose and went to his workbench. There lay a pair of shoes, beautifully made, and the leather was gone! There was no sign of anyone having been there. The shoemaker and his wife did not know what to make of it. But the first customer who came was so pleased with the beautiful shoes that he bought them, and paid so much that the shoemaker was able to buy leather enough for two pairs.

Happily, he cut them out, and then, as it was late, he left the pieces on the bench, ready to sew in the morning. But when morning came, two pairs of shoes lay on the bench, most beautifully made, and no sign of anyone who had been there. It was a puzzle. That day a customer came and bought both pairs, and paid so much for them that the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs, with the money.

Once more he cut out the shoes and left them on the bench. And in the morning all four pairs were made.

It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people. But they could not be satisfied to have so much done for them and not know to whom they should be grateful. So one night, after the shoemaker had left the pieces of leather on the bench, he and his wife hid themselves behind a curtain, and left a light in the room.

Just as the clock struck twelve, the door opened softly and two tiny elves came dancing into the room, hopped on to the bench, and began to put the pieces together. They were quiet, but they had wee little scissors and hammers and thread. Tap! Tap! went the little hammers; stitch, stitch, went the thread, and the little elves were hard at work. No one ever worked so fast as they. In almost no time all the shoes were stitched and finished. Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window.

The shoemaker and his wife looked at each other and said, How can we thank the little elves who have made us happy and prosperous?

I should like to make them some pretty clothes, said the wife.

I will make the shoes if you will make the coats, said her husband.

That very day they commenced their task. The wife cut out two tiny, tiny coats of green, two little pairs of trousers, of white, two bits of caps, bright red, and her husband made two little pairs of shoes with long, pointed toes. They made the clothes as dainty as could be, with nice little stitches and pretty buttons. By Christmas time, they were finished.

On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker cleaned his bench, and on it, instead of leather, he laid the two sets of clothes. Then he and his wife hid away as before, to watch.

Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in. They hopped upon the bench; but when they saw the little clothes there, they laughed and danced for joy. Each one caught up his little coat and things and began to put them on. They were so happy. Then, when the clock struck two, they left smiling.

They never came back any more, but from that day they gave the shoemaker and his wife good luck, so that they never needed any more help.

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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: commencement **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the story says, "That very day they commenced their task." What does the word "commencement" mean in this sentence?

- A:** A ceremony in which degrees or diplomas are conferred on graduating students.
- B:** A common place.
- C:** It was ment to be.
- D:** A beginning or start.

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

- A:** It was a beautiful commencement where they handed out many diplomas.
 - B:** Sally's commencement assignment went well.
 - C:** The commencement to the activities went very well.
 - D:** His commencement of clothes looked good.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: promptly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "Promptly at midnight, the little elves came in." What does the word "promptly" mean in this sentence?

- A:** At a short hour.
- B:** At exactly a specified time; punctually.
- C:** With a timed order.
- D:** With little or no delay; immediately.

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

- A:** He promptly wore his scarf around his neck.
 - B:** They are within promptly.
 - C:** She began her work promptly at seven in the morning.
 - D:** Promptly is far behind.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: prosperous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "It went on like this until the shoemaker and his wife were prosperous people." What does the word "prosperous" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Successful in material terms; flourishing financially.
- B:** Very poor in material.
- C:** A person that is rude.
- D:** The way to make one feel bullied.

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

- A:** I can be prosperous when I eat pickled meat.
 - B:** Prosperous food is always delicious.
 - C:** The prosperous valley looked beautiful tonight.
 - D:** They were prosperous middle-class professionals.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: whisked **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Then the little creatures whisked away out of the window." What does the word "whisked" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Beat or stir (a substance, especially cream or eggs) with a light, rapid movement.
- B:** Breaking thru something.
- C:** Take or move (something or someone) in a particular direction suddenly and quickly.
- D:** Moving around an object.

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

- A:** His jacket was whisked away for dry cleaning.
 - B:** The dancer felt whisked from heat.
 - C:** She whisked the egg yolks.
 - D:** People can be whisked from their jobs.
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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 do you think he was poor and did he deserve what they did?

Why do you think the shoemaker was so poor and do you think that he deserved what the elves did for him?

2 - What purpose did the elves have?

What was the purpose for the elves in this story?

3 - Why did they stop?

Why do you think the elves stopped coming back?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post a 200 word essay here on what you think the story meant or what you learned from the story?? Use at least two examples that explain your thoughts.

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