



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Crystal Ficken

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light

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 to absorb deep lessons from the story, "A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light. By reading and rereading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussion about the text. When combined with writing about the passage, students will discover how much they learn from story.

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.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

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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: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond to. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting an initial response and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - How does the fly feel?

Describe the fly's feelings at the beginning of the story.

2 - Why does the fly have these particular feelings?

Find context clues in the story that describe why the fly feels the way that he does.

3 - Write a short story using the word dangerous.

Write a paragraph with a minimum of 50 words. Make sure you use context clues and descriptive words.

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Task 2: 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: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the term "dangerous" mean?

- A: Harmful
- B: Funny
- C: Hard
- D: Safe

Question: Which sentence below uses the term "dangerous" correctly?

- A: It is dangerous to eat your dinner?
- B: Talking to strangers can be very dangerous?
- C: It is dangerous to do your homework?
- D: It is not dangerous to cross the road without looking for cars?

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Select a sentence that contains the appropriate use of the word "folktale".

- A: A Folktale is a true story.
- B: The folklore Greeks found many ways of doing everyday tasks.
- C: A folktale can predict the future.
- D: A folktale is a fictional story.

Question: In the story above, what does the word "folktale" mean?

- A: Traditional
- B: Funny
- C: Old
- D: New

Q: 3 WordPhrase: The fly saw the stars. They were shining. ?I want to shine like that. That would be special.?

WordPhraseTier: 3

Question: The fly saw the stars. They were shining. ?I want to shine like that. That would be special.? What does the term "Shining" mean in this sentence?

- A: Tall
- B: Dull
- C: Short
- D: Sparkling

Question: Which sentence below contains the correct use of the word "shining"?

- A: The sun was shining bright in the sky.
- B: The bird was shining as it flew over the trees.
- C: The animals were shining in the dark.
- D: The dogs were shining as they walked down the sidewalk.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Lonely **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "I am lonely at night." What does the term "lonely" mean?

- A: Fun
- B: Scared
- C: Happy
- D: Alone

Question: Which sentence below contains the correct use of the word "lonely"?

- A: I was lonely when I played with my friends.
- B: My sandwich is lonely when it is in my lunchbox.
- C: When I am home alone I often feel lonely.
- D: I feel lonely when I celebrate my birthday.

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 500 word?essay on this folktale.?Make sure you discuss how the little fly felt at the beginning of the story in comparision to how he felt at the end. Please provide detailed examples.