



A Lesson on The Turtle and the Rabbit by Semmes Bruce

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, The Turtle and the Rabbit, Vocabulary

Lesson Description: The students will answer vocabulary questions, discussion questions, and do a writing activity based on The Turtle and the Rabbit story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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.

The Turtle and the Rabbit

by

Content: The Rabbit was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. I?have never yet been beaten, said he, when I put forth my full speed. I?challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best.?

The Turtle said quietly, I accept your challenge. I am tired of your?bragging. I am confident that I can beat you.?

That is a good joke, said the Rabbit; I could dance around you all?the way. You will never be able to speed past me. You will not get the?victory.?

Keep your boasting till you've beaten me, answered the Turtle. Shall?we race? I know that I can defeat you.

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The Rabbit darted almost?out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, believing that the Turtle could?never catch him, lay down by the wayside to have a nap. The Turtle never for?a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the?end of the course.?

When the Rabbit awoke from his nap, he saw the Turtle just near the?winning-post. The Rabbit ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw?the Turtle had reached the goal. He was very surprised. He had never lost a?race before.

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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: Boasting **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In this story the rabbit was boasting to the turtle. What does "boasting" mean in this sentence?

- A: The rabbit was lying to the turtle.
- B: The rabbit was bragging to the turtle.
- C: The rabbit was angry at the turtle.
- D: The rabbit was telling the turtle a joke.

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "boasting" correctly?

- A: My mom is always boasting at me because I do not do the chores.
 - B: The dog is boasting at his owner because he is hungry.
 - C: Your friend is always boasting and saying he is better than everyone so he does not have many friends.
 - D: The plane started boasting towards the ground.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Wayside **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The rabbit stops to take a nap by the wayside. What does "wayside" mean in this context?

- A: The rabbit stops to take a nap by the lake.
- B: The rabbit stops to take a nap by the mountain.
- C: The rabbit stops to take a nap by the farm.
- D: The rabbit stops to take a nap by the edge of the road.

Question: Which of these sentences uses "wayside" correctly?

- A: The police man pulls over the driver on the wayside.
 - B: The mom went water skiing on the wayside.
 - C: We went to the wayside to go ice skating.
 - D: The kids climbed up the wayside to see the ocean.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Fixed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The story says a course was fixed. What does the word "fixed" mean in this context?

- A: The course was repaired.
- B: The course was crushed.
- C: The course was decided on.
- D: The course was written.

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "fixed" correctly in the same context as said in the story.

- A: The date for the party was fixed at the meeting.
 - B: The man fixed the bike.
 - C: The soccer player fixed the ball.
 - D: The school fixed lunches for the kids.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Dashed **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The rabbit dashed out of sight in the beginning of the race. What does "dashed" mean in this context?

- A: The rabbit walked.
- B: The rabbit jumped.
- C: The rabbit sprinted.
- D: The rabbit skipped.

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "dashed" in the same context as said in the story?

- A: The banker dashed the money back to her client.
 - B: The runner dashed when the race started.
 - C: The song dashed in the my head all day.
 - D: The cat dashed on the bed to sleep.
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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 does the rabbit boast?

The rabbit boasts to all the animals about his great speed.? Why do you think the rabbit would do this??

2 - Why did the turtle want to race?

Out of all the animals, the turtle challenged the rabbit to a race.? Why do you think the turtle wanted to race the rabbit?

3 - Why does the rabbit take a nap?

Why do you think the rabbit stopped to take a nap instead of finishing and winning the race?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: 1. The story of the turtle and the rabbit is a good example of the phrase actions speak louder than words. Tell about a time in your life where you were like the rabbit and your words spoke louder than your actions or a time when you were like the turtle and your actions spoke louder than your words.

2.? Do you think this statement is true that actions speak louder than words?? Why?

Write at least three sentences for each question.?

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