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A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper

by Laurel Moore

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: ants, grasshopper, summer, winter, grain, food, play, work

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to provide students with an understanding of the story to further their education. In this lesson students will be able to identify the issue and to critically think about the solution. The vocabulary questions provided are to test students understanding of the story. The discussion forum activity is to help students think critically about the story. The writing activity is to help students explore new horizons by posing a question for the students to analyze. This lesson is to help students create, imagine as well as to be inspired by new ideas.

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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5: Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

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

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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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 Ants and the Grasshopper

by

Content: It is wintertime. The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine. They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. They can wait for the warm weather in spring. The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat.

Grain is a kind of plant. People plant it and cut it and then they use it to make bread. The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it. They do not eat it right then. They save it because they need to be able to have food in the winter months when plants do not grow. This goes on all summer.

The ants work hard every day. They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home. Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work. They carry more than they need to eat every day. They carry grain they will eat in winter, too. They play sometimes, but most of the time they work.

The grasshoppers live near the ants, and they love summer. They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. They say, We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. But the ants say, No, we have to work.

Soon it is winter, and the grasshoppers are cold. They are hungry, too. They do not have food to eat. Since they played all summer, they did not save food for winter.

One day, a grasshopper came to see the ants and he was very hungry. Please, ants, could you help me a little bit? I am just so hungry! said the grasshopper.

The ants asked him, Why didnt you work in summer? We did. Remember, how you played while we worked? You made fun of us and said, All work and no play is no good. Well, now we have food and you are hungry.

The grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. I couldnt help but have fun. We had such a good time.

The ants said, We are sorry you have no food. We have a lot because we worked hard. You have none because you played. But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors. We want you to live, so we will help you now. But learn from us. Playing is a lot of fun. But you need to work to live.

The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson. It is fun to play, but you need to save for winter, too. You need to work if you want to eat. Next summer, he would work and play, too, just like the ants.

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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: Rush **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in this story says "When the wind blows, some grain falls and the ants rush to get it." What does the word "rush" mean in this sentence?

- A:** to move fast toward something
- B:** to move slowly
- C:** to stop
- D:** to turn left

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "rush" correctly?

- A:** The rush hour movies are great.
 - B:** Thinking about an assignment brought a rush of heat to his neck.
 - C:** She rushed into the store to buy some apple juice.
 - D:** When she forgot to feed her dog a rush of guilt came over her.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Fine **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine." What does the word "fine" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Not good
- B:** Good
- C:** Terrible
- D:** Work

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "fine" correctly?

- A:** It is a fine day out today.
 - B:** You need to pay your traffic fine today.
 - C:** My hair is not thick but it is fine.
 - D:** I am doing fine today.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "The ants get the grain in summer, because that is when grain grows. "What does the word "grain" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Is a kind of plant
- B:** Is a fruit
- C:** Is a vegetable
- D:** Is an animal

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A:** I used a grain of salt on my chicken.
 - B:** Grain is a kind of plant.
 - C:** The grain on the wood is beautiful.
 - D:** I like to eat grains of rice.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Weather **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." What does the word "weather" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Forecast, Climate
- B:** Worn
- C:** In good shape
- D:** Person

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "weather" correctly?

- A:** Do her shoe's look weathered to you?
 - B:** The old woman's skin looks very weathered.
 - C:** The weather forecast for today is sunshine all day.
 - D:** Do you think you can weather out the storm?
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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

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1 - The ants live in the fields where the grain grows.

Why do you think the ants live near the fields?

2 - The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing

Who made this statement above? Did this character collect enough grain during the summer? Why or why not?

3 - We have fun every day while you work every day.

Who do you think says We have fun every day while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. ?? Is this statement made by the ants or the grasshopper? Please explain your answer?

4 - We have a lot because we worked hard.

Who do you think made this statement, We have a lot because we worked hard. The ants or the grasshopper?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For this writing assignment you are to give me a brief description of your favorite character and tell me what you liked or did not like about that character. (For example the ants or the grasshopper). Please submit your answers below.

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