



## A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Kristen Flanagan

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Seasons, Fable, Ants, Grasshoppers, Reading, Vocabulary, Morals

**Lesson Description:** The purpose of this lesson is to present the students with vocabulary, critical thinking, reading comprehension, and an introduction to authors purpose. The students will read the passage first on their own and then again as a group. The teacher will use the second reading to pause and discuss deeper meaning into the central message of the text while explaining that the author has a purpose for writing to convey a lesson or moral. The students will use: event sequence, descriptive details, text evidence, opinions/ideas, inferenceing, and demonstration of understanding key text details to answer discussion questions and write a response. During the writing portion the students will use real world connections to relate themselves to a character in the story. They will be instructed to use evidence from the text as well as examples from their life to show the relation between themselves and either the ant or the grasshopper.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5b: Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are friendly or helpful).

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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:** Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says \" So now they have grain to eat.\" After reading this sentence what do think the best definition of the word Grain?

- A: A bugs home
- B: A time of year
- C: A type of Job
- D: A type of Plant

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word \"Grain\" in the correct way?

- A: The fly enjoyed living in his new Grain.
- B: Summer is the best time for Grain to grow.
- C: The farmer got up early to get to his job at the Grain.
- D: John's favorite season is Grain because he loves the brightly colored leaves.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the text the author says \" The weather was so lovely that i spent all the days singing. I couldn't help but have fun. We had such a good time.\" From the text what do you think is the correct meaning of the word \"Lovely\" in this sentence.

- A: Ugly
- B: Horrible
- C: Beautiful
- D: Hideous

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word \" Lovely\" in the correct way?

- A: The bowl in the china shop was a lovely color of pink.
- B: I lost the football game and i felt Lovely.
- C: The bruise on my leg is lovely.
- D: I fell on the ground and got a lovely taste of dirt in my mouth.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the text the author says \" The grasshopper thanked the ants. The grasshopper had learned a lesson.\" After reading this sentence what do you think the best definition for the word \"lesson\" would be?

- A: A task
- B: Something that is learned in life.
- C: Inactivity
- D: A prank

**Question:** Based on the sentence from the text which sentence below uses the word \"lesson\" in the correct way?

- A: The teacher asked the class to complete the assignment for this lesson.
- B: The boys played a lesson on the other children.
- C: The women were lesson at the gym
- D: My bad grade on my report card taught me that no work and all play is a bad idea.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** \"But we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors.\" Based on this sentence from the text what do you think the word \"Neighbors\" means.

- A: A person from another country
- B: Bugs that collect food for winter
- C: Hungry grasshoppers
- D: A friendly person that lives close to you.

**Question:** From the sentences below, choose which one uses the word \"neighbors\" correctly.

- A: My neighbor brought over some pizza for game night.
- B: Neighbors collect nuts for the winter.
- C: neighbors drive to the laundry mat.
- D: I bought a neighbor at the supermarket.

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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 - moral

You made fun of us and said, 'All work and no play is good.' Well now we have food and you are hungry. Based on this sentence from the text what do you think the author's purpose for writing this short story is?

### 2 - Animals winter food storage

The reason the ants have a lot of food is because they worked in the summer. So now they have grain to eat. The ants and the grasshopper collect food for the winter. What evidence can you use from the text to infer why animals collect and store food for winter?

### 3 - Play first work later!

We have fun everyday while you work every day. Come and play. You can get grain later. Why do you think the ants do not listen to what the grasshopper says in the text?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** After reading the ants and the grasshopper, Think about your own life...which of the characters do you relate to; the ants or the grasshoppers? Write a short detailed response on which character you are most like, be sure to use examples of times when you were prepared or unprepared and what challenges or successes you faced as a result.?

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