



A Lesson on The Gift by Brendle Wolf

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Comprehension, Writing, The Gift

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to allow students to practice their reading comprehension and writing skills. Through closely examining the passage and recalling details about it, students will make vocabulary inferences, identify key details, be challenged to think critically and practice opinion writing.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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 Gift

by

Content: One windy day in March, Mary Miller was on her way to school when she looked in a store window. She saw a lovely red apples. Oh, she said, how lovely! If only Mamma could have one!

Mary's mother was very poor. She had been a nurse ever since Mary's father died. She had worked hard to earn a living for herself and Mary. But now she had become sick. She was obliged to lie in bed all day, and when Mary was away at school, the house was very lonesome. She missed her little angel. That is what she called Mary. Mary took care of her mother. She cooked her food. Mostly she cooked soup. They could not afford fresh fruit. She would sing to her at night.

She was usually a good student, but that day she made so many mistakes that the teacher looked at her in surprise. She was not paying attention. She was thinking about her mother and the apples.

When school was dismissed, Mary started home. She had gone only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet. Running quickly forward she picked it up. There must be a good deal of money in it, thought Mary. How I wish I could keep it. Then I could buy Mamma a red apple and so many other things she needs.

She knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Touching him on the arm, she said, Please, Sir, you dropped your wallet.

Thank you, said the man taking the wallet. Then noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, Why did you not keep the wallet?

Because that would be stealing, replied Mary. But, she continued honestly, before I thought I must give it back to you, I did wish I could keep it, for then I could buy Mamma a red apple.

He smiled kindly and said, You are a good little girl to return my wallet. I would like to give you a little present and then you can buy a red apple. He handed her a dollar and then said goodbye.

Mary was so surprised that she ran to the store. The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning. He quickly picked out the biggest, roundest, reddest apple he could find. He took it out to Mary and said, Would you like this one?

She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it. She thanked him for my mother, and he smiled and gave her another. For you, too, he said. When Mary reached home with her treasures, she found her mother fast asleep. She put the apples and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke.

When Mrs. Miller was told the wonderful story, she kissed her little daughter and said, You see, dear, it always pays to be honest and truthful.

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: earn a living **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says "She had worked hard to earn a living..." What does the phrase "earn a living" mean in this sentence?

- A: receive life
- B: make enough money to pay for needs
- C: get a new family member
- D: to be given a gift

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "earn a living" correctly?

- A: I earned a living of a teddy bear.
- B: We earned a living of a baby sister.
- C: She can earn a living of a new toy.
- D: My dad earns a living by working hard as a doctor.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: obliged **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "She was obliged to stay in bed..." What does the word "obliged" mean in this sentence?

- A: required
- B: helped
- C: unable
- D: asked

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

- A: She was obliged in the daily schedule.
- B: She obliged if she could go to the store.
- C: She was obliged to do the homework assigned by her teacher.
- D: She obliged if she had extra time.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: longingly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning." What does the word "longingly" mean in this sentence?

- A: of a great distance
- B: with strong desire
- C: far away
- D: relaxed

Question: Which one of the sentences below Uses the word "longingly" correctly?

- A: She loved sweets, and looked longingly at the chocolate.
- B: She was in Florida, which is longingly from Maine.
- C: When he went to the beach, he felt longingly.
- D: The mailman had a longingly route.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Charge **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says "She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it." What does the word "charge" mean in this sentence?

- A: accusation
- B: electrical current
- C: move ahead
- D: cost

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

- A: There was a \$10 charge for parking at the game.
- B: He charged ahead towards the water.
- C: The battery is charged.
- D: He was charged with coaching the game.

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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 did you not keep the wallet?"

What hint does the author give that prompts the man to ask Why did you not keep the wallet??

2 - Why does the author use the word "treasures"?

The author says When Mary reached home with her treasures.... Explain what the author refers to as treasures and why you think the author uses that word.?

3 - Main point

Which sentence in the passage is the main point? In your own words, explain what events occurred to lead to the main point.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: If you were in the little girl's position, would you have returned the wallet? Explain why or why not. Depending on your answer, include in your response what you would do with the money received, either from the \$1 given by the man or the entire contents of the wallet.

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