



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Aja Galioto

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, firefly

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to provide reading and writing skills that give students the knowledge and ability to comprehend multiple aspects of a passage and use context clues to interpret it. By carefully reading and thinking about what the passage is saying, the students will be able to identify how the firefly got its light and everything that happened along the way.

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.3.3: 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.RI.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.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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.

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: 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: Special **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special. The fly was sad. It did not feel special." What does "special" mean in the passage?

- A: Not like other flies
- B: Bigger than other flies
- C: Like a butterfly
- D: Having the biggest wings

Question: Which sentence uses the word "special" correctly?

- A: She loved to make special.
- B: Special was on the way home.
- C: The special door was the same as the other door.
- D: The blue rose was very special, compared to the red ones.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Secret **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "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." What would the author say the "secret" in the passage is?

- A: The moth was awake.
- B: The moon wanted the fly to be his friend.
- C: The moon told the fly how to make his body light.
- D: It looked like magic.

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

- A: I learned about secret today at school.
- B: Grandma showed us her secret family recipe for her home made mac and cheese.
- C: She won't have time to secret.
- D: The black horse beat the secret horse in the race.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Welcome **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "When you come out at night, I will be here. I will shine my light to welcome you." What does the word "welcome" mean in this passage?

- A: To stay awake
- B: To say goodnight
- C: To be the moon's friend
- D: To greet the moon

Question: Choose the correct use of the word "welcome" that BEST relates to the passage:

- A: Mom taught us to say "you're welcome" when someone says "thank you".
- B: I learned how to say "welcome" in Spanish.
- C: We welcomed the new student in the class.
- D: Welcome to New York City!

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Finally **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Finally. Now I have what I need." What is the meaning of "finally" in the passage?

- A: To be a finalist in the competition.
- B: After everything
- C: Last in the race
- D: To know the secret

Question: Choose the sentence with the correct use of the word "finally":

- A: I finally found my lost toy.
- B: Finally I am joking.
- C: She was being way too finally.
- D: You aren't finally today.

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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 is the moon lonely?

Why did the moon tell the fly he didn't have any friends? What about the moon makes it hard for him to make friends? What is everyone else doing when the moon is awake?

2 - Why do the mice need to hide?

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.?

Why do you think the mice need to hide? What or who would the mice need to hide from? Is shining dangerous for the fly, like it would be for the mice?

3 - Why does the fly have everything he needs?

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.?

When the fly says, now I have what I need, what do you think he is talking about? How is this sentence like the beginning of the story? How did the fly change in the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write at least 5 sentences about why the fly didn't think he was special at the beginning of the story. Make sure you use examples from the passage!

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