



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Paul Kauffman

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Firefly folktale lesson plan

Lesson Description: Language Arts lesson based on a folktale about how the firefly got its light. The assignment includes four vocabulary questions, the short answer discussion questions, and one long-form essay where students are asked to "fill in" part of the story with their own.

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.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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

=====

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.?

=====

=====

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: Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word folktale mean?

- A:** A true story about the past.
- B:** Ancient history you will learn about when you get to college.
- C:** An old TV cartoon.
- D:** A fictional legend of the past.

Question: In the story, the author writes "The fly saw the stars. They were shining." What is another word for shining?

- A:** Moving
 - B:** Sparkling
 - C:** Special
 - D:** Happy
- =====

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Shining **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, it says "The fly saw the stars. They were shining." What is another word for shining?

- A:** Moving
- B:** Sparkling
- C:** Large
- D:** Happy

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word shining correctly?

- A:** The apples were shining brightly in the sun.
 - B:** The cars were shining fast on the road.
 - C:** The children were shining to be at school.
 - D:** Some ducks are more shining than others.
- =====

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does dangerous mean?

- A:** Hard
- B:** Fun
- C:** Unsafe
- D:** Funny Looking

Question: Select the sentence which uses the word "Dangerous" correctly.

- A:** It's dangerous to do your homework.
 - B:** It's dangerous to play in the road.
 - C:** We went for a relaxing and dangerous walk on the beach.
 - D:** We went to a park we knew would be dangerous.
- =====

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Lonely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the moon says it is lonely at night. What does lonely mean in this story?

- A:** Sad
- B:** Friendly
- C:** Alone
- D:** Nice

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

- A:** Sometimes, I feel lonely at night when no one's around.
 - B:** I was lonely at the party when I saw all my friends.
 - C:** I got free cotton candy at the fair because they were so lonely.
 - D:** It makes me feel lonely when my parents get mad at me.
- =====

=====

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 - The fly's motivation

Why did the fly feel sad at the beginning of this story? Cite examples from the story.

2 - The mother mouse and her child

In the story, the mother mouse tells her child that it is dangerous to shine like the fly. Using complete sentences, give two reasons you think it would be dangerous.

3 - Central Idea

How is the central idea of friendship and working together shown in this story?

=====

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Near the end of the story, the moon tells the fly the secret to make him shine. Make up your own story about what you think the secret could have been.

?

=====