



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Lynnette Lambert

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Vocabulary, Problem solve, Read, Group Discussion.

Lesson Description: In this lesson students will learn to think critically about the reading, understand new vocabulary words, and problem solve. Students will read the excerpt and answer the vocabulary questions. The teacher will then read the excerpt aloud. Then students will be grouped into small groups where they will discuss their thoughts on the excerpt between themselves, the teacher will be monitoring the conversations and the time allowed for this discussion. Following the discussion, the students will finish the writing assignments.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

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.

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: What does the word grain mean in the sentence, "Each ant carries one piece of grain."

- A: Time of year.
- B: Type of plant.
- C: Type of insect.
- D: Tool used by the ants.

Question: Which sentence uses the word grain correctly?

- A: The ants favorite grain was summer.
 - B: Grain helped the builders build the house.
 - C: The grain had wings on its back.
 - D: The grain grows best when watered.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: carry **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word carry mean in the sentence, "They pick up the grain, they carry it to their home."

- A: They swim in it.
- B: They sleep on it.
- C: They move it.
- D: They jump on it.

Question: Select the sentence that uses the word carry correctly.

- A: Carry loved her new bike.
 - B: I helped my mom carry the groceries inside.
 - C: We carry in the pool.
 - D: I like to carry on the trampoline.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word neighbor mean in the sentence, "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors."?

- A: A type of tree
- B: The way to the store
- C: Those that live near you
- D: A type of car

Question: Select which statement uses the word neighbors correctly.

- A: We went to our neighbors house for dessert.
 - B: I take the neighbors to Walmart.
 - C: Neighbors grow tall with green leaves.
 - D: The neighbor goes fast, buckle up.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: learn **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The ants tell the grasshopper, "But learn from us." What does the word learn mean?

- A: To lift an object
- B: The time of year
- C: A type of plant
- D: To understand something new

Question: Please choose the sentence that uses the word "learn" correctly.

- A: I wanted to learn all about airplanes.
 - B: We go to the learn for soda.
 - C: Watch me learn on trampoline.
 - D: Learn is when it is cold out.
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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.

1 - Grain in the Summer.

Why did the ants work all summer instead of playing like the grasshopper?

2 - A lesson to learn.

What lesson did the ants want the grasshopper to learn?

3 - A plan.

What were the ants doing by working in the summer instead of playing?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a paragraph on what you would have done if you were in the grasshopper's position. Would you still play instead of collecting grain? Would you work with the ants to collect a lot of grain? Why? Give one example where someone you know, or yourself, has waited until the last minute?to complete the work you were given.?

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