



## A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Stephanie Ruscito

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour

**Lesson Keywords:** How the firefly got its light

**Lesson Description:** A Language Arts lesson on How a Firefly got its light. This lesson covers new vocabulary words, as well as a new writing style. There are 2 discussion questions, that allow the students to think outside the box and interact with one another. And there is one written answer question that allows students to give their opinion on the story.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3c: Decode multisyllable words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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

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.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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:** 2

**Question:** "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special." After reading this whole passage, what do you think the fly meant when it said it wanted to be "special"?

- A:** It wanted to be better than all the other flies.
- B:** It wanted to be a butterfly.
- C:** It wanted to feel different from the other flies, like it mattered.
- D:** It wanted to have big wings.

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

- A:** The boy learned how to play a song on the piano, and it made him feel very special.
- B:** It is special to be in school.
- C:** My backpack is more special than yours.
- D:** I wasn't allowed to go outside and play today, so it was a special day.

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

**Question:** ?NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide.? What does the word dangerous mean in this sentence?

- A:** Happy
- B:** Fun
- C:** Bad
- D:** Unsafe

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A:** It is dangerous to ride a bike without a helmet on.
- B:** Going to school is very dangerous.
- C:** The computer wouldn't turn on, which meant it was dangerous.
- D:** I got scolded for being dangerous.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "This is a story based on an old folktale." After reading this passage, what do you think the word folktale means?

- A:** A story that was just written.
- B:** An old story, passed on through the years.
- C:** A story that only one family knows, and they don't tell anybody else.
- D:** A story that doesn't make any sense.

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "folktale" correctly?

- A:** I am writing a folktale.
- B:** This new book that just came out is an old folktale.
- C:** My mom told me an old folktale last night that she had heard from a friend.
- D:** I got a cook book and it is filled with folktales.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Shining **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "The fly saw the stars. They were shining." What does the word shining mean in the way that it is used in this passage?

- A:** Giving off light
- B:** Full of glitter
- C:** Dull and dark
- D:** Special

**Question:** Which sentence uses the work shining the same what it is used in the passage?

- A:** It was a nice day, the sun was shining!
- B:** My mother told me to clean the table until it was shining.
- C:** The alarm made a loud noise that was shining.
- D:** Her eyes were shining with excitement.

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Task 2: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write a 2-3 paragraph reaction to this narrative. How did this story make you feel? What is the moral of the story? Did you like the writing style??

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### Task 3: 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 - Working together

How did the moon help the fly, and how did the fly help the moon? What does this passage tell you about friendship?

#### 2 - How is this folktale written differently?

Is this story written differently than others you have read in the past? What about this passage is different, and why do you think it is written this way?

#### 3 - Why would a light be dangerous for a mouse?

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 mice need to be able to hide? Also, why do you think this sentence is added in the passage? Does it seem out of place, or unnecessary??

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