



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Chelsea Navarro

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading Comprehension, Discussion, Opinion Writing, The Ants and the Grasshopper

Lesson Description: The overall goal of this activity is to enhance a student's reading comprehension, develop new vocabulary, and to formulate educated opinions. Together, the students and I will read the short story "The Ants and the Grasshopper". When finished, the students will answer several questions regarding vocabulary. The students will then move on to answer higher level thinking questions regarding the story meaning. Lastly, the students will answer an essay question requiring their educated opinion. The students will be required to provide supporting details from the story to validate their opinion. This assignment is worth a total of 100 points.

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

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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.3.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).

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.

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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: Home **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: They have their warm home, and they have a lot of food to eat. What does the word "home" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Where they live
- B:** Hospital
- C:** Animal
- D:** Car

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

- A:** The father drove used his home to get to work every day.
 - B:** My mom said when we get home I have to take a nap in my bed.
 - C:** The home at the farm let out a large moo when the farmer brought in the food.
 - D:** The ambulance brings sick people to a home to receive medicine.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The ants live in the fields where the grain grows. What does the word "grain" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Pig
- B:** People
- C:** Seed
- D:** Muscle

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

- A:** The heart is the largest grain in the human body.
 - B:** There were a lot of grain in the airport on Memorial Day.
 - C:** The grain said
 - D:** Farmers grow grain to harvest into bread.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Hop **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: They hop and play and they laugh at the ants. What does the word "hop" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Drink
- B:** Jump
- C:** Eat
- D:** Love

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

- A:** The frogs like to hop from lily pad to lily pad.
 - B:** My family went to the restaurant last night to hop a warm meal.
 - C:** I hop to eat ice cream for dessert.
 - D:** My mother gave me milk in a tall glass to hop.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Learned **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The grasshopper has learned a lesson. What does the word "learned" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Spoke
- B:** Ran
- C:** Cooked
- D:** To be taught

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

- A:** My mother learned our dinner on the stove every night.
 - B:** We learned around the track after school to exercise.
 - C:** The students learned about the water cycle during the science lesson.
 - D:** My mother learned loudly while my baby brother was yelling.
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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 do you think

Why do you think the ants didn't think it would be a good idea to play during the Spring/Summer?

2 - How do you think

During the winter, how do you think the grasshoppers felt about their judgment of the ants not playing with them? Explain your answer.

3 - What was the moral

What lesson/moral do you think the story The Ants and the Grasshopper is trying to teach? Explain your answer.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Do you believe the ants did the right thing by giving the grasshoppers some of their harvested grain? Would you have given the grasshoppers the grain you worked hard for? Explain why or why not and use supporting details from the story.

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