



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Tiffany Humes

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Hard work, inspire, generosity

Lesson Description: Learning the importance of hard work and generosity.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7: 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.RL.3.9: Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

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

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: Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The ants collect the grain in the summer for food in the winter. What is grain?

- A: A type of flower people collect to display in their house.
- B: A type of plant that people use to make bread.
- C: A type of vegetable that people pick to eat and cook with.
- D: A type of fruit that people pick to eat.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "grain" correctly?

- A: Grain is a type of plant people use to make bread.
 - B: Grain is a type of flower people pick to display in their homes.
 - C: Grain is a type of fruit people pick to eat.
 - D: Grain is a type of vegetable people pick to eat.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Grasshopper **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The grasshoppers love to hop and love summer. What is a grasshopper?

- A: An animal.
- B: A type of sea creature.
- C: A type of insect.
- D: A type of frog.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "grasshopper" correctly.

- A: The grasshopper likes to hop through the grass.
 - B: The grasshopper likes to skip through the grass.
 - C: The grasshopper likes to run through the grass.
 - D: The grasshopper likes to swim in the water.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Winter **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The ants are saving food for wintertime. What kind of season is winter?

- A: The hot and humid season.
- B: The chilly and breezy season.
- C: The warm, but rainy season.
- D: The cold and snowy season.

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

- A: The children can't wait to build their snowman in the winter.
 - B: The children can't wait to swim in the winter.
 - C: The children make their leaf piles in the winter.
 - D: The children pick flowers in the winter.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Field **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The ants live in the field because that is where the grain grows. What is a field?

- A: A body of water.
- B: A small forest.
- C: A wide open grassy area.
- D: A park with flowers and trees.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "field" correctly?

- A: The two men went fishing in the field.
 - B: The girl ran through the open field of grass.
 - C: The children went swimming in the field.
 - D: The river ran through the field.
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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 - The importance of hard work.

The ants centered their lives around collecting the grain for the winter. They live in the field where the grain grows and spend the whole season of summer collecting it. They know they have all of spring to play. This hard work paid off in the end for the ants. Why is hard work so important?

2 - The lesson learned.

What lesson did the grasshoppers learn from the ants? How do you think the grasshoppers felt when they realized they had no food saved for winter and had to ask the ants for some of their food? How would you feel if you were in the grasshoppers' position?

3 - Learning from the ants.

Besides learning the importance of hard work, what other lesson do you think the grasshoppers learned from the ants? Look back on the ants' actions when the grasshoppers asked them for some of their food. What kind of neighbor were the ants??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on Make sure to provide specific examples.

In the story, we learn the importance of hard work and generosity. Eventhough the grasshoppers did not work as hard as the ants did, the ants were still kind enough to offer them some of their food to eat so the wouldn't starve. Why is it important to hard work and?be genorous? In what ways can you be more like the ants? In what ways can we learn and?grow like the grasshoppers??

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