



A Lesson on The Ants and the Grasshopper by Diana Weeks

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 3 hours

Lesson Keywords: reading and comprehension. Grasshopper. Ants. Lesson

Lesson Description: This lesson allows the students to increase their vocabulary and teaches words in context. Students need to use their critical thinking skill.

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.3.3: 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.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.

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: kind **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says, "But, we will give you some food because we are good, kind neighbors." what does the word "kind" mean?

- A: good
- B: selfish
- C: bad
- D: different

Question: Please pick the correct sentence using the word "kind".

- A: My mother was kind to everyone. She will share if you needed something.
 - B: My sister was kind to me. She didn't like to share her favorite clothes.
 - C: My classmates were kind. They made fun of me all the time.
 - D: Kind and unfriendly are never good qualities
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: hard work **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says, " Every ant helps. Each ant carries one piece of grain. It is hard work." what does the phrase "hard work" mean?

- A: Difficult Labor
- B: abuse
- C: maltreatment
- D: easy labor

Question: Please pick the correct sentence using the phrase "hard work".

- A: She did hard work all her life. She will work from 7 am to 7pm
 - B: Hard work usually requires no commitment.
 - C: she put the hard work on the yard
 - D: we were playing "hard work"
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: "doing fine" **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the author says, "The weather is cold, but the ants are doing fine." what does the word "doing fine" mean?

- A: great
- B: struggle
- C: bad
- D: unkind

Question: Please pick the correct sentence using the phrase "doing fine".

- A: She is doing fine. Her recovery after surgery went well.
 - B: She wasn't having a good time. She was doing fine there was not food or water.
 - C: He was doing fine in math. He got an F.
 - D: You need to go to doing fine and then turn left.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: lovely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story about the Grasshopper and the Ant, the author uses the word "\\\"lovely\\\"". In the sentence, "\\\"The weather was so lovely\\\"\" what does the word "\\\"lovely\\\"\" mean?

- A: gorgeous
- B: poor
- C: awful
- D: unpleasant

Question: The author of our short story said, "The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing." what does "lovely" mean in this sentence?

- A: The weather was lovely. It was raining and we had to go back home.
 - B: The resort was lovely. We didn't even have hot water.
 - C: The weather was lovely. The sun was shining and the breeze was heading our way.
 - D: My dog is lovely. She barks at the neighbors all the time
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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 - Lack of planing

In the story, the grasshopper said, I didn't have the time. The weather was so lovely that I spent all the days singing. Do you think the grasshopper didn't have time or didn't plan for the bad days? Why do you think people usually don't plan ahead of time??

2 - Describe the main characters

How would you describe the ants? Do you know anyone that resembles the ants' traits?

3 - Lesson

Do you think the grasshopper learn his lesson? Find evidence in the text. ?What would you do if next winter the grasshopper ask you for grain again? ?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words. Please compare and contrast the main characters. ?Make sure to provide specific examples. Use one of the graphic organizers that we used in class that will make your writing easier. ?

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