



A Lesson on How the Firefly Got Its Light by Yeilin Ramirez

Grade Level: Grade 2

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Firefly, Folktale, Special

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to have students find the deeper meaning and reasoning behind a folktale or story. Through reading "How the Firefly Got Its Light", students will learn how to identify and understand the context and of the text being reading. This allows them to be able to discuss the text and what they grabbed from the tale. Finally, using their writing skills, students are able to explain the purpose of the folktale.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2: Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

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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.

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Q: 1 WordPhrase: Special **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "There was a little fly. It wanted to be special. The fly was sad. It did not feel special.." What does the word "special" mean in this sentence?

- A: Ordinary
- B: Unique
- C: Best
- D: Similar to others

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "special" correctly?

- A: Nicole was excited to watch the new Saturday morning specials on t.v. tomorrow.
- B: The special at the mall started at 4 p.m. today.
- C: Trevor was an extremely special person.
- D: Lily ordered the fish special at hr favorite restaurant.

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

Question: The author in our story says "His mother said, ?NO! That would be dangerous. You know we need to be able to hide." What does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

- A: Not safe
- B: Obvious
- C: Special
- D: Shine

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "dangerous" correctly?

- A: Susie did not have fun at the zoo. She thought it was dangerous.
- B: Zach had a dangerous time at the park yesterday.
- C: Lisi thought the cat was dangerous to have in the house.
- D: Nina knew going out alone at night would be dangerous.

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

Question: The author in our story says "The fly saw the stars. They were shining..." What does the word "shining" mean in this sentence?

- A: Unique
- B: Special
- C: Happy
- D: Beaming

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "shining" correctly?

- A: Ana noticed the water was clear and shining.
- B: Kevins language skills were shining during the spelling bee contest.
- C: The bracelet was shining and hard to find.
- D: Becky was shining when she was told the good news.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Folktale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "This is a story based on an old folktale. This is a story about long ago." What does the word "folktale" mean in this sentence?

- A: A traditional, typically untrue story
- B: A tale with a deeper meaning
- C: Usually told by word of mouth
- D: All the above

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "folktale" correctly?

- A: Justin told his friends about the folktale of his birthday.
- B: Jenny's favorite folktale is Pinocchio.
- C: Vivi and all her friends went to the movies to watch a folktale.

D: You can often hear about new folktales on the radio.

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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 - What is special about the word "special"?

The story begins 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. What was the reason the fly wanted to be special? What made the fly special and happy? Explain feeling special??

2 - What is the fly feeling?

How does the fly feel at the beginning of the folktale? How does he feel in the end? Is it the same or does he feel differently? What changes the fly's attitude? Explain the reasoning behind the fly's feelings and how you would feel yourself??

3 - Why does the author mention the mouse and his mother?

Why was the mouse and his mother mentioned in the folktale? What was significant about their conversation? Explain why you think the mother said they can not shine? Does that make them special? Why or why not?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 2-3 paragraphs of your response and the meaning of this folktale. What was the message of How the Firefly Got its Light? What did you think about the fly's feelings and actions throughout the story? How were you able to tell what the purpose of this story was? Make sure to provide specific examples from the text.

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