



## A Lesson on Mousie by Torge Fergenbaum

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** <http://google.com>

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to have students use reading and writing skills to identify key vocabulary concepts and words and draw inferences from the text, relating the story about Darrell to their own lives. By reading and rereading the passage, they can learn more about scientific terms as well as comprehension and writing skills to connect science to language arts.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1b: Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2e: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

---

## 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.

### Mousie

by

**Content:** Darrell Burton was always very careful. He listened to his teacher, he studied diligently, and he did all of his homework well. Other students sometimes taunted him and said, "Don't study so hard. You're such a book-head. They called him Book-head, but Darrell didn't mind. He loved to learn."

This is a story about how he learned science right at home. In fact, he learned about science from experimenting with real animals. Much like scientists observe nature, Darrell did, too. He formed a hypothesis and discovered it to be true. Then he continued to study so he could learn more.

One night, Darrell woke to a strange noise coming from his closet. He stepped out of bed, crossed the floor in his bare feet, and carefully opened his closet door. The noise stopped instantly.

"Ah!" exclaimed Darrell, "I knew it had to be mice making those noises. How I wish I could catch them!"

The next morning at breakfast, he told his mother about the noises he had heard, and how he had a hypothesis that the sounds were coming from mice. "I will get you a mouse trap," his mother insisted.

"I don't want the kind of trap that kills the mice; I only want to catch them so that I can tame them," replied Darrell.

His mother laughed and told him that after he had tamed his mice, he had better keep them well out of her way.

The trap was set, the mice were caught, and sure enough, in just a short time, they were so tame that they would eat right from Darrell's hand. He made a little house for them, and kept it in his bedroom. Whenever he went out, he always shut the door carefully so the mice could not escape.

The other students at school started to call Darrell Mousie because he told them about his mice. He didn't mind what they said.

He read about mice, and he discovered that most of them could live only a short period of time. In fact, most mice might not even live a whole year. This made Darrell resolve to take even greater care of them. He acted like a scientist. He studied the mice closely, but he never gave them names. Instead, he just called them Mouse 1, Mouse 2, and Mouse 3. He took such good care of them that they lived more than a year. When one mouse died, Darrell would set the trap again to get another one.

When Darrell left college, he brought his mice with him. He studied biology, and his college professors said he was a great natural scientist. He learned much more about science. Later, Darrell became a zoologist. That is someone who studies animal life. Today, he is Dr. Darrell Burton, and he works at the zoo. He is in charge of caring for all the animals, including the mice. Some of the mice are exotic creatures from distant places. When he sees them, he smiles.

---

## 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:** diligently **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author said that Darrell "listened to his teacher, he studied diligently, and he did all of his homework well." What does the author mean by "diligently?"

- A: lazily
- B: with great effort
- C: quickly
- D: respectfully

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "diligently" correctly?

- A: Sam diligently finished his dinner so he could go hang out with his friends.
- B: Deborah did not feel like finishing her homework, so she did her paper diligently and turned in an incomplete assignment.
- C: In order to earn a promotion, Martha worked diligently to show her boss that she was a hard worker.
- D: After they left the park, the dog diligently laid on the couch and fell asleep.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** hypothesis **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the text, Darrell "told his mother about the noises he had heard, and how he had a hypothesis that the sounds were coming from mice." What does the word "hypothesis" mean in this sentence?

- A: an assumption
- B: a fact
- C: common knowledge
- D: proof

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses "hypothesis" correctly?

- A: At the end of the experiment, Joe formed the hypothesis that the plant grew quicker in the fertilized soil.
- B: The class came up with a hypothesis on why the hamster was so inactive - it was sick!
- C: The scientist wrote a paper on his hypothesis and showed proof on why it was true.
- D: In order to explain her results, Cynthia told the class her hypothesis.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** biology **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "He studied biology, and his college professors said he was a great natural scientist." After reading the story, what can we infer is the meaning of "biology" in this sentence?

- A: the study of plants
- B: the study of noises
- C: the study of the sun
- D: the study of all living things

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

- A: Robert studied biology in college to understand the way living things work.
- B: Harold and Mary loved reading books about biology to learn more about industry.
- C: The class performed a biology experiment and mixed chemicals together to see a reaction.
- D: Kenny learned a lot more about computers while studying biology.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** tame **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "In just a short time, [the mice] were so tame that they would eat right from Darrell's hand." What does the word "tame" mean in this sentence?

- A: untrained
- B: hungry
- C: crazy
- D: not wild

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "tame" correctly?

- A: The cat was tame; it lived outside, away from people, and caught its own food.
- B: The dog was so tame, it devoured its food in 20 seconds.
- C: The owner trained his dog to be tame and calm when other people walked through the front door.
- D: The tame bird hated people, and would bite every hand that went near its beak.

---

## 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 does Darrell want to tame the mice?

Why would Darrell want to tame mice instead of kill them?

### 2 - Why did Darrell's classmates' teasing never bother him?

There were multiple times when Darrell's classmates teased him. However, their comments never really bothered Darrell. Why do you think that is?

### 3 - Why did Darrell decide not to name his mice?

Darrell referred to his mice as Mouse 1, Mouse 2, and Mouse 3 instead of actual names. Why did he choose not to name them?

---

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Why do you think the author wrote this story to tell you about Darrell and his mice? What advice do you think Darrell would give to a student who loved animals and wanted to one day study biology like he did??You are to write and post here 500 words. Make sure to provide specific examples.

=====