

## The Little Dutch Hero | Lesson Plan

What does the story of *The Little Dutch Hero* teach about perseverance, bravery, and responsibility?

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Students will understand that small acts of courage, responsibility, and perseverance can have a significant impact on their community, just as Peter's bravery in *The Little Dutch Hero* saved his country from disaster.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key events of *The Little Dutch Hero* through discussion and comprehension questions.
- Define important vocabulary words related to the story (e.g., dike, Holland, bravery, etc.).
- Describe the lesson of perseverance and responsibility demonstrated by Peter's actions.
- Explain how Peter's bravery helped save his country, using examples from the story.
- Sequence the events of *The Little Dutch Hero* correctly using a story sequencing worksheet.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Folktale:** A traditional story passed down through generations, often with animals as characters and a moral or lesson.
- **Moral:** A lesson that can be learned from a story or experience.
- **Dike:** A tall wall built to hold back water and prevent flooding.
- **Flood:** When water covers an area that is usually dry, often caused by heavy rain or a broken dike.
- **Holland:** A region of the Netherlands in Europe known for being close to the sea and having many dikes to prevent flooding.
- **Bravery:** Being courageous, even when scared or in danger.
- **Perseverance:** Continuing to do something, even when it is difficult.
- **Responsibility:** The duty to take care of something or someone, showing reliability.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.3

**Academic Topics:** Life Lessons, Hard Work, Self-Reliance

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Little Dutch Hero* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Little Dutch Hero* (Click [Here](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)



1. Begin by explaining that today, students will hear a folktale from a country called the Netherlands, which is sometimes called Holland. Tell them that the people from this region are called "Dutch," and the story they will hear today is called *The Little Dutch Hero*. Mention that this folktale is known by other titles as well.
2. Introduce the key vocabulary words: folktale, moral, dike, flood, bravery, perseverance, and responsibility. Briefly explain each word so students understand the terms before listening to the story.
3. Ask students to think about a time when they felt very tired, cold, or scared and wanted to give up. Invite a few students to share their experiences briefly, focusing on moments when they pushed through despite their feelings.
4. Explain to students that even though they may be small, there are times when children can make a big difference. Encourage them not to underestimate their ability to help their family or community, just like the hero in today's story.
5. Queue up the video and remind students to watch for the important lesson that the story teaches.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Play the video *Otto's Tales: The Little Dutch Hero* for the students.
2. Pause at key moments to ask questions and check for understanding of vocabulary words and objectives from the lesson.
3. After the video, ask students questions to gauge comprehension.
  - Where did Peter live, and why were dikes important to his country?
  - What was Peter asked to do by his mother before it got dark?
  - What did Peter notice while he was walking along the dike, and why was it dangerous?
  - How did Peter show bravery when he found the leak in the dike?
  - Why couldn't Peter leave the dike, even though he was cold and scared?
  - How did the story end?
  - What can we learn from this story?
4. Wrap up the discussion and let students know that they will next complete a worksheet to put the events of the story in order.

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Give each student a copy of the "Otto's Tales: The Little Dutch Hero Worksheet." Instruct students to look at the pictures on the worksheet and number the scenes in order from first to last.
2. After completing the worksheet, discuss the sequence of events as a class. Invite a few students to retell the story in their own words.
3. End the lesson with a word of encouragement and a call to action such as this one: As we wrap up today's lesson, remember that even small acts of courage and responsibility can make a big difference, just like Peter's bravery saved his entire country. You all have the ability to help others and be heroes in your own way, no matter how small you may

feel at times. Keep looking for ways you can step up and make a difference for your family, friends, and community—because every little bit counts.

4. As a formative assessment, evaluate students based on their ability to:
  - Correctly sequence the story of *The Little Dutch Hero*.
  - Explain the moral of the story.
  - Discuss the importance of perseverance, courage, and responsibility.

Extension Activity:

For a fun extension, students can create their own "hero story" inspired by *The Little Dutch Hero*. Ask them to imagine a situation where they had to be brave or responsible, just like Peter. They can draw a picture of themselves in the situation and write a few sentences explaining what they did to help others.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)**

Watch the video as a class and complete the story sequencing worksheet. Have a discussion about the importance of perseverance, courage, and responsibility.