

# King Midas | Lesson Plan

Why is greed a dangerous trait?

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Students will learn the dangers of greed and the importance of gratitude in combating greed.

## Learning Objectives:

- Retell the fable of King Midas in their own words.
- Summarize the lessons to be learned from the story.
- Compare wanting something with greed.
- Explain how gratitude is a solution to greed.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Satyr:** A mythical creature from Greek tradition that is half man, half goat.
- **Dionysus:** The Greek god of wine, vegetation, and drama.
- **Greed:** An excessive desire to possess more than what one needs or deserves.
- **Gratitude:** A feeling of thankfulness or appreciation for what one has.

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

**Academic Topics:** Life Lessons, American Values, Character Development

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: King Midas* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: King Midas* (Click [Here](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Initiate a discussion to get students thinking about greed.
  - If you could wish for anything, what would you wish for? Why?
  - Could there be a downside to your wish?
  - Is it okay to wish for/want things? What about food? Safety? Clean clothes? Toys? Music? What about wanting things other people have?
  - What is greed?
  - When does wanting something turn to greed?

Watch and Discuss: (10 mins.)

1. Play the video *Otto's Tales: King Midas*.
2. After the video, review the story with the students.
  - What kind of person was King Midas?
  - What mistake did he make?
  - Why did he make that mistake?



- What lesson did King Midas learn?
- What can we learn from King Midas's experience?
- Was it okay for King Midas to accept the wish? What else could he have wished for?

Wrap-Up: (25 mins.)

1. Have a brief discussion about gratitude.
  - Can anyone define the word "gratitude"?
  - How might King Midas's story have differed if he'd had more gratitude?
  - What are ways to show gratitude in our daily lives?
  - Introduce the idea that one way to show gratitude is to appreciate the small, everyday things in life.
2. Go on a gratitude scavenger hunt.
  - Explain to the class that you are going on a gratitude scavenger hunt.
  - Students will work alone or in groups (depending on the class's needs) to identify everyday things for which they can be grateful.
  - Take the students around the school, the playground, or the classroom (Only one location is necessary, but more can be visited, depending on time.)
  - In each location, give the students 3-5 minutes to explore the space and find at least five things they are grateful for.
  - After the time is up, gather the group to share what they've found.
  - Allow time for questions and comments from other students.
  - Wrap up the activity by asking students how this thinking can benefit their daily lives.
3. Evaluation Criteria for Formative Assessment
  - Can students summarize the story of King Midas?
  - What lesson/s can we learn from the story?
  - Why is gratitude a solution to greed?

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

For a quick lesson, show the video and discuss the importance of the story about King Midas and his golden touch. As a formative assessment, have students complete the story sequencing worksheet.