

The Lion & the Mouse | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to show kindness and recognize the value in everyone, regardless of their size or strength?

Students will understand the importance of kindness and will be able to explain how the actions in the story illustrate the value of helping others, regardless of their size or strength.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fable is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the fable of "The Lion & the Mouse."
- Explain the importance of kindness and recognizing value in everyone.
- Discuss how even small actions can make a big difference.
- Identify the lesson of the fable.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fable:** A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.
- **Kindness:** The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
- **Compassion:** Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
- **Gratitude:** The quality of being thankful and showing appreciation.
- **Virtue:** Moral excellence; a quality considered morally good or desirable in a person.

Educational Standards: CCRA.RL.1, CCRA.RL.2, CCRA.RL.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, American Values, Friendship

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Lion & the Mouse* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Lion & the Mouse* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by asking students if they have heard any stories with animals as characters. Encourage students to share the titles or the names of the characters.
2. Introduce the concept of a fable as a story with animal characters that teach a moral lesson. Explain that Aesop was a famous storyteller from ancient Greece who wrote many fables.
3. Ask students if they have heard the fable "The Lion & the Mouse" and what they may know about it.
4. Let students know that "The Lion & the Mouse" as one of Aesop's most famous fables, known for teaching about kindness and compassion.



Watch and Discuss: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Lion & the Mouse* to the students.
2. After watching the video, discuss the following questions with the students:
 - What happens at the beginning of the story when the mouse encounters the lion?
 - What does the lion do when he catches the mouse?
 - How does the mouse react when the lion catches him?
 - What happens after the mouse promises to repay the lion for his kindness?
 - Can you describe the events leading up to the lion getting trapped in the poacher's net?
 - How does the mouse help the lion when he is trapped?
 - What happens after the mouse sets the lion free?
 - Can you summarize the sequence of events from the beginning to the end of the story in your own words?
3. Engage the students in a discussion about the moral of the story by posing open-ended questions such as these:
 - What do you think the mouse learned from helping the lion?
 - How do the actions of the mouse and the lion demonstrate kindness and compassion?
 - Why do you think the lion decided to spare the mouse?
 - Can you think of a time when you helped someone smaller or weaker than yourself? How did it make you feel?
 - Why is it good to show compassion and kindness to others?
4. Ask students to share examples of times when they showed compassion to someone else or when someone showed compassion to them.
5. Discuss how showing compassion can make a positive difference in people's lives and build strong relationships.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Briefly summarize the key points discussed during the lesson, particularly focusing on the moral of the story and the importance of compassion.
2. Hand out the Story Sequence Chart worksheet.
3. Instruct students to look at the pictures on the worksheet and number the scenes in order from first to last.
4. After completing the worksheet, discuss the sequence of events as a class.
5. Ask students to explain why the mouse's actions were important and what they can learn from it.
6. End the lesson by encouraging students to carry the message of compassion with them and to look for opportunities to practice kindness in their daily lives.

Extension Activity: Create a Fable

Invite students to write or dictate their own short stories or fables that highlight the theme of compassion. Encourage them to incorporate animal characters or real-life situations where compassion is demonstrated. Consider sharing their stories with the class, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment in their creative work.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After reading the story, distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and allow students to complete it independently. Then, conclude with a discussion on the importance of showing kindness and compassion to others and the positive outcomes that can come from it.