

The Tale of William Tell | Lesson Plan

What does the tale of William Tell teach about courage?

Students will learn the virtue of staying calm and courageous in the face of tyranny through a timeless Swiss folktale in *Otto's Tales: The Tale of William Tell*.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a legend is and understand its purpose.
- Retell the story of "William Tell."
- Explain the concepts of courage and confidence.
- Identify the theme of the story.
- Discuss the importance of standing up against injustice.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Legend:** A traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but not authenticated.
- **Courage:** The ability to do something that frightens one.
- **Confidence:** A feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.
- **Tyrant:** A cruel and oppressive ruler.
- **Marksmanship:** Skill in shooting.
- **Injustice:** Lack of fairness or justice.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.R.4

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, Character Development, Liberty

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Tale of William Tell* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Tale of William Tell* (Click [Here](#))
- Paper and art supplies

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a legend is, emphasizing that it is a story passed down through generations to teach a lesson or moral and often features heroic characters.
2. Ask students if they have heard any legends or heroic tales before and share some titles if they have.
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: legend, courage, confidence, tyrant, marksmanship, and injustice.



4. Ask students to think about a time when they had to be courageous or stand up against something unfair. Discuss how courage and confidence play a role in these situations.
5. Before watching the video, ask students what they think it means to be a hero.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Tale of William Tell* to the students.
2. Pause at key moments to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meanings:
 - What does the term "tyrant" mean, and how does it apply to Gessler in the story?
 - How does William show courage?
 - Why is the term "marksmanship" important to the story?
 - What qualities did William show throughout the story that made him a hero?
3. After the video, discuss the characters and their actions:
 - What does William do when he is commanded to bow to Gessler's hat?
 - How does William demonstrate confidence and skill when Gessler challenges him to shoot the apple off his son's head?
 - Why is William's successful shot at the apple significant for both him and the townspeople?
 - What does William's escape and ultimate defeat of Gessler teach us about standing up against injustice?

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and explain how to fill it out.
2. Guide students through the sequence of events in the story, prompting them to fill in the chart with the main events in the correct order.
3. Discuss the completed worksheets as a class, ensuring everyone has captured the key events correctly.
4. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Retell the story of William Tell in their own words.
 - Explain the lesson of the story.
 - Define the key vocabulary terms.
 - Provide examples of courage and confidence from their own lives.
5. Close with a word of wisdom, reminding students that, like William Tell, they should use their courage and not give up, even when faced with challenges.

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

After watching the video, distribute the worksheet *Otto's Tales: The Tale of William Tell* and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.