

The Boy Who Cried Wolf | Lesson Plan

Why is honesty important in building truth?

Students will understand how honesty builds trust in relationships and communities and how deceit can lead to negative consequences, as demonstrated through the fable "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fable is and understand its purpose.
- Recount the fable "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and the sequence of events.
- Explain the concepts of honesty and deceit.
- Discuss the importance of trust and its role in relationships.
- Identify the moral of the story.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Honesty:** The quality of being truthful and sincere.
- **Deceive / Deception:** To make someone believe something that is not true.
- **Trust:** Reliance on the integrity, strength, or ability of someone or something.
- **Consequences:** The result or effect of an action or decision.
- **Fable:** A short story that teaches a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters.
- **Moral:** The lesson that a story teaches about how to behave or what is morally right or wrong.

Educational Standards: CCRA.RL.1, CCRA.RL.2, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.SL.1

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, American Values, Honesty

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a fable is, emphasizing that it is a short story that teaches a moral lesson and often features animal characters.
2. Ask students if they have heard any fables before, and if so, what lessons those fables taught.
3. Introduce the fable "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" by explaining that it's more than 2,000 years old and comes from the famous Greek author Aesop.



4. Teach the key vocabulary: honesty, deceive/deception, trust, consequences, fable, and moral.
5. Present the following scenarios to the students, highlighting that individuals often face choices between telling the truth and lying, acting with integrity, or being dishonest. Encourage students to consider what they might do in each situation and discuss the possible outcomes of choosing honesty versus dishonesty.
 - Imagine you're playing at a friend's house, and while playing with their favorite toy, you accidentally break it. You feel really bad, but no one else saw what happened. Now, you have a choice to make: you can tell your friend what really happened, or you can hide the broken toy and hope no one notices.
6. Guide students to think about how honesty helps individuals build trust, while dishonesty may cause problems. Emphasize that everyone makes mistakes, but honesty helps repair and strengthen relationships.

Watch and Complete: (15 mins.)

1. Explain to the students that they are about to watch a story called "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Encourage them to pay attention to the special lesson that this story teaches and what the boy learns by the end of the story.
2. Play the video *Otto's Tales: The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. Pause at key moments to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meanings:
 - Is the boy being honest when he shouts, "Wolf!"?
 - How does the boy deceive the townspeople?
 - What are the consequences of the boy's actions?
 - What is the moral of the story?

Wrap-Up: (20 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help students understand the sequence of events in a story.
2. Distribute the worksheet and explain how to fill it out. Show students where they will write the sequence of events, which are numbered from 1 to 4.
3. Discuss the completed worksheets as a class, ensuring everyone has captured the sequential events correctly. Give several students the opportunity to recount the story in their own words, using the story sequencing worksheet as an aid.
4. Collect completed worksheets as a formative assessment.
5. Evaluate students on their ability to retell the fable, explain its lesson, and provide examples of honesty and trust from their own experiences.
6. Close with a call to action: Remind students of the importance of honesty, like the lesson learned by the boy in the fable. Encourage them to always tell the truth, even when it's difficult, because being honest helps build trust with others. Highlight that by choosing honesty, they can create stronger, more positive relationships and be seen as trustworthy and dependable by those around them.

Extension Activity:

Trust Walk: Pair up students and have one blindfolded while the other guides them around the room or a small obstacle course. Afterward, discuss how trust was needed to complete the activity and how it felt to rely on someone else. Reflect on how honesty and trust are connected in relationships.

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

After watching the video, distribute the worksheet *Otto's Tales: The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and allow students to complete it independently. Conclude with a discussion about the importance of honesty and trust in a relationship.