

Chicken Little | Lesson Plan

Why is critical thinking important when dealing with fear and rumors?

Students will understand that everyone can experience fear, but by using critical thinking and not jumping to conclusions, they can make better decisions and avoid unnecessary panic.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a folktale is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the folktale "Chicken Little."
- Explain the concept of fear and how it affects decision-making.
- Understand and interpret the saying "The sky is falling!" as a metaphor for unnecessary panic.
- Identify the moral of the story.
- Discuss the importance of critical thinking and not jumping to conclusions.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Folktale:** A traditional story passed down through generations, often with animals as characters and a moral or lesson.
- **Fear:** An unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous.
- **"The sky is falling!":** A saying that means causing unnecessary panic or alarm.
- **Moral:** A lesson that can be learned from a story or experience.
- **Critical Thinking:** The ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.
- **Rumor:** A story or statement that is being passed from person to person but has not been proven to be true.

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

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, American Values, Character Development

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Chicken Little* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Chicken Little Maze* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a folktale is: A folktale is a traditional story passed down through generations. Today, students will learn the folktale known as Chicken Little.
2. Ask students if they have heard any folktales before and share some titles if they have (e.g., Johnny Appleseed, John Bunyan, etc.)

Scan to watch episode:



3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: folktale, fear, "the sky is falling," moral, critical thinking, and rumor.
4. Ask students to think about a time when they were scared. Discuss how it feels to be afraid and what they did to feel better.
5. Explain that sometimes people can be scared of things that aren't real, just as Chicken Little thought the sky was falling.
6. Let the students know that they will watch a video about a folktale called "Chicken Little" and watch for the moral of the story.

Watch and Complete: (15 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Chicken Little* to the students.
2. Engage students in a discussion about the story, focusing on the following questions:
 - Who are the main characters in the story?
 - What problem does Chicken Little encounter?
 - How do the characters react to the problem?
 - What could Chicken Little have done differently to solve the problem?
3. After the video, discuss the moral of the story:
 - What lessons can we learn from the story of Chicken Little?
 - Why is it important to think critically before reacting?

Wrap-Up: (20 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "Chicken Little."
2. Hand out the "Otto's Tales: Chicken Little 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 Chicken Little thought the sky was falling and what happened as a result.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the story of "Chicken Little."
 - Explain the moral of the story.
 - Discuss the importance of critical thinking.

Extension Activity:

Have students create their version of Chicken Little's story, focusing on problem-solving and critical thinking. They can rewrite the ending to show how Chicken Little and the other characters work together to solve the problem.

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

After watching the video, distribute the worksheet *Otto's Tales: Chicken Little* and allow students to complete it on their own. Conclude with a discussion about critical thinking.