

Little George and the Cherry Tree | Lesson Plan

Why is honesty important even when it's difficult?

Students will learn the value of honesty and the courage it takes to tell the truth through the folktale of George Washington and the cherry tree.

Learning Objectives:

- Recount the folktale of George Washington and the Cherry Tree.
- Compare different types of bravery.
- Explain why it takes courage to be honest.
- Identify actions that demonstrate honesty and bravery.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Orchard:** An area of land devoted to the cultivation of fruit trees.
- **Blossom:** A flower or cluster of flowers.
- **Hatchet:** A small, short-handled ax for use in one hand.
- **Honor:** A sense of moral uprightness of character; personal integrity.
- **Courage:** Doing something even while feeling frightened.

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

Academic Topics: Life Lessons, Honesty, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Little George and the Cherry Tree* (Watch [Here](#))
- Coloring Page: *Otto's Tales: Little George and the Cherry Tree* (Click [Here](#))
- Coloring supplies

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Begin with circle time, asking students what they think it means to be honest and why it's sometimes hard to tell the truth. Introduce the idea of courage in honesty. Use simple questions to guide the discussion and make the concepts of honesty and courage tangible:
 - Have you ever been afraid to tell the truth?
 - Why do you think it is sometimes difficult to tell the truth?
 - Why is it important to tell the truth?
2. Use a small plant or tree (or an image of one) to explain what an orchard is visually. Explain that George Washington's father owned an orchard, according to legend, and discuss the importance of taking care of things that are valuable to us and others.



3. Ask students if they have ever had the opportunity to care for something important to others.
4. Lead into the video by telling students they will hear about a young boy who made a mistake but chose to be brave by telling the truth. Highlight that this boy was George Washington, a very important figure in American history.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Show the class the video *Otto's Tales: Little George and the Cherry Tree*.
2. After the video, review the story with the students to check for comprehension:
 - Why do you think George decided to tell his dad the truth about chopping down the tree?
 - Do you think it was brave of George to tell the truth?
 - What would you have done in that situation?

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Organize a simple role-play where students can act out being George Washington or his father in the story.
2. Hand out *Otto's Tales: Little George and the Cherry Tree* coloring page and allow class time to color and discuss further takeaways from the lesson.
3. (Optional) Together, create a class rule about speaking and behaving with honesty.
4. Evaluation criteria for formative assessment:
 - Can students retell the story of *Little George and the Cherry Tree* in their own words?
 - Did students participate actively in the discussions?
 - Can students connect the folktale and the concept of being honest in their own lives?

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

Watch the video *Little George and the Cherry Tree*. Discuss the connection between bravery and honesty. Allow the students the opportunity to share examples from their own lives.