

The Ugly Duckling | Lesson Plan

How can understanding resilience and patience help us overcome challenges in our lives?

Students will understand the importance of resilience and patience in overcoming challenges, as illustrated in "The Ugly Duckling."

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fairy tale is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the sequence of events in the fairy tale "The Ugly Duckling."
- Identify and discuss the key themes of resilience and patience in the story
- Explain the meaning of new vocabulary words using context clues from the story

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fairy tale:** A type of story that often includes magical elements, teaches a lesson, and usually has a happy ending.
- **Resilient** - Able to keep going and stay strong even when things are tough.
- **Moor** - An open, grassy area of land, often found in the countryside.
- **Poultry** - Birds like chickens and ducks that are raised on a farm for their eggs or meat.
- **Duckling** - A baby duck.
- **Patience** - The ability to wait calmly for something, even when it's difficult or takes a long time.

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

Academic Topics: Life Lessons,

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Ugly Duckling* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Ugly Duckling* (Click Here)

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a folktale is: A fairy tale is a type of story that often includes magical elements, teaches a lesson, and usually has a happy ending. Today, students will learn the fairy tale known as "The Ugly Duckling."
2. Ask students if they have heard any fairy tales before and share some titles if they have (e.g., Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, etc.).
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: fairy tale, resilient, moor, poultry, duckling, and confidence.



4. Have a quick discussion about the words “resilience” and “confidence” by discussing what they mean with examples.
5. Ask students if they have ever felt different from others or had a time when they were made fun of. Allow students to share their experiences.
6. Introduce the video *Otto’s Tales: The Ugly Duckling* and ask students to pay attention to the order of events in this story.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Play the video “The Ugly Duckling” for the students.
2. During the video, pause at strategic moments and ensure understanding of the following:
 - What happened to the ugly duckling at the beginning of the story?
 - How did the other animals treat the duckling? Why do you think they treated him that way?
 - What does the word “resilient” mean? How did the duckling show resilience?
 - Why do you think it took so long for the ugly duckling to realize he was a swan?
 - When did the duckling become confident in the story?
3. After the video, discuss the moral of the story:
 - How did the duckling’s patience help him in the end? What might have happened if he had given up?
 - How can we show patience in our own lives when things aren’t going well?
 - Did this story have a happy ending, as a fairy tale usually does?
4. Explain that there are many lessons that we can learn from the ugly duckling. One of the reasons that this story is so beloved is because it has many real-life experiences woven into the journey of the ugly duckling. He faced rejection, misunderstanding, and ridicule from those around him. Despite hardship and loneliness, he continued to grow, both physically and emotionally. Over time, his true identity and beauty were revealed.

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. After the guided discussion, introduce the story-sequencing worksheet. Explain that the worksheet will help them remember the important events from “The Ugly Duckling” in the correct order.
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 recount the fairy tale in their own words.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the story of “The Ugly Duckling.”
 - Explain the lesson of the story.
 - Discuss the importance of resilience and patience during difficult times.
7. Close with a reflection and encouraging call to action: Remind students that, just like the duckling, they have the ability to grow and change, even when times are tough. Encourage them to remember that, even in difficult moments, they are growing into the

unique and beautiful individuals they were created to be. Just like the duckling discovered his true beauty and significance, they too are valuable and important, reflecting the image of their Creator in their own special way.

8. Challenge them to look for moments in their own lives where they can be patient and resilient and to remember that they are each unique and valuable, created with a purpose.

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

After reading the story, distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and allow students to complete it independently. Then, conclude with a discussion about the importance of resilience and patience during challenging times.