

# Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to stand up against lies, even when it's hard?

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Students will understand the importance of truth and the dangers of lies by exploring the conflict between truth and lies in the African folktale "Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water." They will reflect on the story's moral and how it applies to their own lives.

## Learning Objectives:

- Define a folktale and describe its common characteristics.
- Identify and describe the roles of the main characters in "Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water."
- Summarize the story and explain how lies contributed to conflict and harm.
- Discuss the value of truth and how the story illustrates the struggle between truth and lies.
- Articulate the moral of the story and relate it to personal experiences.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Folktale:** A traditional story passed down through generations, often with a moral.
- **Truth:** What is real or factual.
- **Lie:** A falsehood told with the intent to deceive.
- **Conflict:** A disagreement or struggle between opposing forces.
- **Moral:** A lesson taught by a story or experience.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.RL.1, CCRA.RL.2, CCRA.RL.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Character Education, Life Skills, Reading Comprehension

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water* (Click [Here](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Introduce the concept of a **folktale**. Share that today's story is from African tradition.
2. Invite students to name any folktales they've heard (e.g., *The Tortoise and the Hare*, *Anansi the Spider*).
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: folktale, truth, lie, conflict, moral.
4. Ask students to think about a time when they had to choose between telling the truth or telling a lie. Discuss how it felt to be truthful and whether it was difficult to make that choice. Explore what happened as a result and how they felt afterward. Emphasize the conflict they might have felt and the importance of standing up for the truth, even when it's hard.



5. Emphasize that lies can cause a lot of harm and problems, sometimes leading to even bigger conflicts. Let the students know that they will listen to a story about how lies can create lasting conflict and how the battle between truth and lies is something we face throughout our lives.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Watch the video *Otto's Tales: Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water* with the students.
2. After the video, engage students in a discussion about the story, focusing on the following questions:
  - Who are the main characters in the story?
  - What problems arise because of lies?
  - How do the characters react to the lies?
  - What happens as a result of the conflict between truth and lies?
  - Why do you think the Wind said that truth and lies will always fight?
3. Discuss the moral of the story:
  - What lessons can we learn from this story?
  - Why is it important to value truth?
  - How can we stand up for truth in our own lives, even when it's difficult?

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in the story.
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 explain why lies caused so much trouble and what could have been done differently.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
  - Correctly sequence the story of "Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water."
  - Explain the moral of the story.
  - Discuss the importance of truth and how lies can lead to problems.
7. Close with an encouraging call to action: Highlight the lesson from the story, emphasizing the importance of truth. Discuss how being truthful can positively affect their lives and encourage students to always value truth, even when it's challenging.

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

If you don't have time for the complete lesson, you can still reinforce the main ideas. After reading the story, distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and allow students to complete it on their own. Conclude with a brief discussion about the importance of truth and the consequences of lies.