

Legend of the Corn Husk Doll | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to remain humble and attentive to one's responsibilities?

Students will learn an essential life lesson, focusing on humility, responsibility, and self-awareness through the exploration of the Native American Iroquois folktale, "The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll."

Learning Objectives:

- Define and apply key vocabulary terms within the context of the story and in relation to personal experiences.
- Describe the main characters and the setting of *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll*, highlighting their significance to the story's moral.
- Outline and discuss the sequence of events in *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll*, demonstrating comprehension of the narrative flow and key moments.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Attentiveness:** The quality of paying close and continuous attention, being alert and focused on the task or person at hand.
- **Humility:** The quality of not being proud.
- **Vanity:** The excessive belief in one's abilities or attractiveness to others.
- **Purpose:** The reason why something is done or used; the aim or intention of something.
- **Responsibility:** The obligation or commitment to carry out tasks, make decisions, and answer for one's actions, impacting oneself and others.
- **Reflection:** The act of giving serious thought or consideration; in this story's context, it can also refer to the image seen in a mirror or water.

Educational Standards: CCRA.RL.1, CCRA.RL.2, CCRA.,RL,3, CCRA.RL.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.3

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, Native American, America

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll* (Click [Here](#))
- *Optional:* Corn husks and string for the [Craftory Corn Husk Doll](#) activity

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Explain that today's lesson has important words that have important meanings. Write each word on the whiteboard and then ask the students the following questions.



Gather responses as you go along. Each of these questions is designed to help students connect the word to their daily life and the upcoming story.

- Can you think of a time when someone else won a game or did something really well, and instead of being upset, you were happy for them and said, 'Good job!?' (Humility)
 - Have you ever spent a lot of time looking at yourself in the mirror or worrying about what you're wearing, so much that you were late or forgot to do something else? (Vanity)
 - Do you have a special job you do at home, like setting the table or helping take care of a pet? How does it feel when you remember to do that job all by yourself? (Purpose)
 - Have you ever been given the task of looking after something important, like a plant or a classroom pet, and you had to make sure it was safe and healthy? (Responsibility)
 - Have you ever sat quietly and thought about how your day went, like if you were kind to everyone or if there was something you could have done better? (Reflection)
2. Explain that the Iroquois, a Native American culture, has a unique oral tradition that revolves around four important characters. These characters are the Great Spirit, Corn, Beans, and Squash. The Great Spirit is believed to be the creator of the universe, while Corn, Beans, and Squash are known as the Three Sisters. They are considered to be gifts from the Great Spirit and are grown together in a traditional farming practice known as companion planting. The Iroquois hold these characters in high regard, and their stories are an important part of their cultural heritage.
 3. Introduce "The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll" as a story from the Iroquois tribe that teaches an important lesson about humility.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

- Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll* to the students. Pause at key moments in the story to discuss characters, setting, and vocabulary.
- After watching, lead a discussion about the story:
 - What was the Corn Husk Doll's purpose at the beginning of the story?
 - What distracted her from that purpose in the middle of the story?
 - What lesson did the Corn Husk Doll learn at the end of the story?
- Ask students to turn to a classmate and share examples of a time when they felt proud of something they accomplished and how they stayed humble.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Summarize the lesson by emphasizing the importance of staying humble and attentive to one's purpose and responsibilities.
2. Encourage students to reflect on the lesson of "The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll" and how students can apply it to their own lives.

3. Encourage students to retell the legend of "The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll" to family members or friends, reinforcing their understanding of the lesson.
4. Remind students why humility is an important character trait and how it can benefit individuals and communities.

Extension Activity:

Create a Corn Husk Doll: As a fun way to cap this lesson and give students an item to take home and share the story with their families, consider following up with this special activity. [Craftory Corn Husk Doll](#).

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

After watching the video, distribute the worksheet *Otto's Tales: The Legend of the Corn Husk Doll* for students to complete and consider collecting as a formative assessment.