

Let's Meet a Police Officer | Lesson Plan

What do police officers do for our communities?

Students will understand the important role of police officers as community helpers through the story of *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Police Officer*. Students will develop an appreciation for our law enforcement and safety in their community.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the main characters and setting in *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Police Officer*.
- Recognize the sequence of events in the story.
- Understand how police officers help our communities daily.
- Discuss and understand the roles of police officers within the network of community helpers.
- Analyze the concept of courage demonstrated in the story and propose ways to appreciate police officers.
- Identify key vocabulary related to police officers.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Police Officer:** A person who helps keep the community safe, ensuring people follow the law. Police officers investigate crimes, arrest criminals, and help in emergencies, among many other duties that keep the peace in society.
- **Emergency:** A sudden, often dangerous situation that needs to be dealt with quickly to avoid harm or disaster.
- **Law:** The rules, usually decided on and enforced by a government or other authority, that determine how people in a community or society should behave. The law tells people what they can and cannot do, and there are consequences when it is disobeyed.
- **Suspect:** A person thought to be guilty of a crime or wrongdoing but has not yet been proven guilty.
- **Investigate:** To carefully study the facts of a situation, such as an event or crime, to figure out how and why it happened, as well as who is responsible.
- **Badge:** A small piece of metal, plastic, or cloth that signifies a person's membership, support of a group, achievement, or authority/rank.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7

Academic Subject Areas: America, Law Enforcement, Character Development

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Police Officer* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Police Officer* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Police Officer* (Click [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- Construction paper
- Drawing materials (crayons, markers, or colored pencils)

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by showing students a picture of a police officer. Ask them to observe the picture and share what they know about police officers. Write their responses on the board.
2. Use their responses to introduce the topic of *Let's Meet a Police Officer* for the Otto's Tales Video.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet an Officer* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. Encourage students to identify the main characters and the setting and to think about what police officers do to help us.
4. Discuss what Otto and Smidge learned while visiting the police station, focusing on understanding and appreciating how police officers help keep communities safe.
5. If using the book, guide students through a discussion of the illustrations, asking them to describe and interpret different scenes.
6. Optional Activity: Provide students with paper and drawing materials. Instruct students to write a simple letter or draw a picture to send to a local police officer thanking them for all the ways they help to protect the community.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow time for the students to color the *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit a Police Officer Coloring Page*.
2. Assess comprehension and encourage storytelling skills by asking students to retell the story in their own words. Use guiding questions that assess recall and understanding of the story's themes, such as the importance of police officers and how to show appreciation for our community helpers.

Extension Activities:

1. Invite a local police officer to visit for a Q & A session.
2. Arrange a field trip to a local police station.
3. Engage in a role-playing activity where students can take turns pretending to be police officers, illuminating the importance of helping others by maintaining safety.

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

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss one thing they appreciate about police officers and why they are important in the community.