

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to look beyond appearances?

Students will learn that we should not make assumptions based on appearances but rather look deeper to find truth.

Learning Objectives:

- Retell the fable of *A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* in their own words.
- Summarize the lesson to be learned from the story.
- Explain the pitfalls of making assumptions based on appearances.
- Sequence the main events of the story to show comprehension.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fable:** A short story, usually with animals, that teaches a moral or lesson.
- **Moral:** The lesson that a story teaches about how to behave or what is right and wrong.
- **Wolf:** A wild animal that is related to dogs and often seen as sneaky or dangerous in stories.
- **Sheep:** A farm animal with thick wool, usually peaceful and gentle.
- **Disguise:** Something worn or done to look different and hide one's identity.
- **Deceive:** To make someone believe something that isn't true.
- **"A wolf in sheep's clothing":** A saying that means that someone's intentions seem kind but, in reality, are not.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.W.10, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2

Academic Topics: Life Lessons, American Values, Honesty

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* (Click [Here](#))
- Flashcards with vocabulary words written on them
- Optional Extension Activity Materials: Drawing paper, markers, crayons

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Personal Connection Activity:

- Discussion Prompt: Begin by asking, "Have you ever seen something that looked one way but turned out to be something else? Maybe it was someone in a costume or a piece of plastic fruit that looked real enough to eat."

Scan to watch episode:



- Student Sharing: Invite a few students to share their experiences. If they need help, prompt them with ideas like seeing someone dressed up on Halloween, at a theme park or parade, or mistaking something fake for something real.
- Connecting to the Lesson: Explain, "Today, we're going to hear the fable of 'A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.' Did you know this story was so famous that people still use it to warn others to look carefully before trusting someone? Even Jesus used this saying in the Bible. He said, 'Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.' This means that sometimes, people can look kind on the outside, but their actions can show something different."

2. Vocabulary Introduction:

- Introduce Key Vocabulary Words: Show visuals or flashcards for each word and give simple, kid-friendly definitions. Use motions or facial expressions to reinforce meanings, such as pretending to put on a mask for "disguise."
- After explaining a word, ask students to give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down to indicate whether they've heard it before and understand what it means. This helps gauge familiarity and provides immediate feedback.

3. Setting the Scene:

- Introduce the Story Background: Share that this is an Aesop's fable, a type of story that teaches a lesson, often depicting animals as characters. Explain, "In this story, the wolf isn't what he seems, and the sheep have to look closely to figure out the truth."
- Engagement Question: Ask, "If you saw a wolf in a costume, would you believe it was really something else? What kinds of things might give away that it was actually a wolf and not a sheep?"

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. **Setting Up the Video:** Explain to the students, "Now that we've talked about times when things aren't what they seem and learned some new words, let's watch the story about a sneaky wolf who tries to trick some sheep. Pay close attention to how he tries to trick them and what happens when he's discovered. After the video, we'll talk about why it's important to look closely and see the truth."
 - Focus Questions for Viewing (Introduce before the video to help students watch actively):
 - What does the wolf do to try and trick the sheep?
 - How do the farmer and his dog respond when they realize the truth?
 - What lesson do you think the sheep and the shepherd learned?
2. **Watch the Video:** Show the class "Otto's Tales: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing." Remind students to keep their thoughts on the focus questions as they watch.
3. **Guided Discussion:** After the video, conduct a discussion for comprehension and oral language development. Use open-ended questions to encourage students to recall

details, make inferences, and connect with the story's themes. Here are some suggestions:

- What did the wolf do to try and look like a sheep?
 - How did the farmer and his dog protect the sheep?
 - What happens to people who try to trick others? Why do you think they're often found out?
 - Can you think of ways to recognize if someone is truly kind?
4. **Conclude By Summarizing the Key Lesson:** "The wolf tried to trick the sheep by looking friendly, but he was discovered. This teaches us that it's important to look closely at people's actions, not just how they look, to find out who they really are."

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. **Transition to Worksheet:** Explain, "Now that we've watched and discussed the story, let's put the main events in order to help us remember how the wolf tried to trick the sheep and what happened in the end."
2. **Pass Out the Story Sequencing Worksheet:** Explain that the worksheet shows pictures of the main events in the story, but they are all mixed up. Hold up a sample worksheet and briefly model how to look at each picture and think about the order of events.
 - Let students complete the worksheet independently as a formative assessment, providing support as needed. As students work, circulate the room to observe their sequencing. Note any students who may need additional support.
3. **Encouraging Close & Call to Action:** Reinforce the story's moral and the new vocabulary. Say, "Today, we learned that the wolf tried to trick the sheep by pretending to be something he wasn't. We call that 'a wolf in sheep's clothing,' and it's a reminder to look closely at people's actions, not just their appearances." Encourage students to think about how they can practice looking for the truth and being careful about first impressions. "Just like the farmer and his dog, we can be smart and make sure we pay attention to what people do, not just how they look. Let's remember to be thoughtful and kind, always looking for the truth."

Extension Activity – Draw and Tell:

For students who finish the sequencing worksheet early, offer an opportunity to creatively express their understanding of the story with a Draw and Tell activity ...

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

After watching the video, allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story. Hand out the story sequencing worksheet and allow students to finish it independently. After completing the worksheet, allow students to retell the story in their own words.