

# The Elves & the Shoemaker | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to show gratitude and help others?

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Students will understand the importance of gratitude and helping others, and they will be able to explain how the actions of the shoemaker and his wife in the folktale "The Elves and the Shoemaker" illustrate these values.

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a folktale is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the folktale "The Elves and the Shoemaker."
- Explain the importance of gratitude and service to others.
- Discuss the consequences of kindness and generosity.
- Identify the moral of the story.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Folktale:** A traditional story passed down through generations, often with a moral or lesson.
- **Gratitude:** The quality of being thankful.
- **Service:** The action of helping or doing work for someone.
- **Kindness:** The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
- **Generosity:** The quality of being kind and generous.

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

**Academic Topics:** Life Lessons, Liberty, Judeo-Christian Values

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Elves & the Shoemaker* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Elves & the Shoemaker* (Click [Here](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a folktale is: "A folktale is a traditional story passed down through generations. Today, students will learn the folktale known as 'The Elves and the Shoemaker.'"
2. Ask students if they have heard any folktales before and share some titles if they have (e.g., Johnny Appleseed, John Bunyan, etc.).
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: folktale, gratitude, service, kindness, generosity.
4. Ask students to think about a time when someone helped them. Discuss how it felt to receive help and why it is important to show gratitude.



5. Explain that in the story, the shoemaker and his wife receive help from some unexpected friends and learn a valuable lesson about gratitude.

#### Watch and Discuss: (10 mins.)

1. Play the video "The Elves and the Shoemaker," for the students.
2. Engage students in a discussion about the story, focusing on the following questions:
  - Who are the main characters in the story?
  - What problem does the shoemaker encounter?
  - How do the elves help the shoemaker?
  - How do the shoemaker and his wife show their gratitude?
3. After the story, discuss the moral of the story:
  - What lessons can we learn from "The Elves and the Shoemaker"?
  - Why is it important to show gratitude and help others?

#### Wrap-Up: (25 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "The Elves and the Shoemaker."
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 the shoemaker and his wife decided to make clothes for the elves and what happened as a result.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
  - Correctly sequence the story of "The Elves and the Shoemaker."
  - Explain the moral of the story.
  - Discuss the importance of gratitude and service.
7. Close with an encouraging call to action: Highlight the lesson from 'The Elves and the Shoemaker,' focusing on gratitude and helping others. Explain how being thankful and kind can positively impact those around them and strengthen the community. Challenge students to think of one way they can show gratitude or help someone today, and share their ideas with the class.

#### **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 on their own. Conclude with a discussion about the importance of gratitude and helping others.