

# The Crow & the Pitcher | Lesson Plan

Why is perseverance a necessary trait when coming up against a challenge?

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Students will understand the importance of perseverance in overcoming challenges.

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fable is and understand its purpose.
- Recount the fable "The Crow & the Pitcher."
- Explain the concept of perseverance.
- Interpret the saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention."
- Identify the moral of the story.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Anxious:** Experiencing worry or unease.
- **Weary:** Feeling or showing tiredness.
- **Clever:** Quick to understand, learn, and devise or apply ideas; intelligent.
- **Perseverance:** Steady persistence in adhering to a course of action or a purpose.
- **Necessity is the mother of invention:** A saying that means when put in a difficult situation, one is likely to come up with creative solutions.

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

**Academic Topics:** Life Lessons, Perseverance, Hard Work

## What You'll Need

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

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a fable is, emphasizing that it is a short story that teaches a lesson or moral and often features animals as characters.
2. Ask students if they have heard any fables before and share some titles if they have.
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: anxious, weary, clever, perseverance, and "Necessity is the mother of invention."
4. Ask students to think about a time when they felt discouraged and how they overcame it. Discuss how perseverance plays a role in these situations.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Introduce the fable and ask students to predict if the crow will persevere or give up.
2. Play the video "Otto's Tales: The Crow & The Pitcher."



3. Pause at key moments to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meanings:
  - Why was the crow feeling anxious?
  - What would make the crow feel weary?
  - How was the crow being clever?
  - What clever ways do you think would work to get the water out of the pitcher?
  - What lesson can we learn from the crow's perseverance?

#### Wrap-Up: (20 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help students understand the sequence of events in "The Crow & the Pitcher."
2. Distribute the worksheet and explain how to fill it out. Show students where they will write the sequence of events, which are numbered from 1 to 4.
3. Discuss the completed worksheets as a class, ensuring everyone has captured the sequential events correctly.
4. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
  - Retell the fable in their own words.
  - Explain the lesson of the fable.
  - Define the key vocabulary terms.
  - Provide examples of perseverance and ingenuity from their own lives.
5. Close with an encouraging call to action. Like the crow, students should use their ingenuity and never give up, even when faced with challenges. By thinking creatively and staying determined, they can overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

#### Optional Activity: Human Knot

Have students stand in a circle and place their hands in the middle, holding two random hands from across the circle. Without letting go, students must untangle themselves back into the original circle. Afterward, discuss how perseverance and ingenuity were needed to complete the activity. Reflect on whether it became easier with each attempt and how they felt during the process.

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

After watching the video, distribute the story sequencing worksheet and have the students complete it on their own or in groups. Collect as a formative assessment.