

The Emperor's New Clothes | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to speak the truth, even when others won't?

Students will understand the importance of truth and honesty, and they will be able to explain how the actions of the characters in the folktale "The Emperor's New Clothes" illustrate the consequences of dishonesty and the value of speaking the truth.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a folktale is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the folktale "The Emperor's New Clothes."
- Explain the importance of truth and honesty.
- Discuss the consequences of peer pressure and conformity.
- Identify the moral of the story.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Folktale:** A traditional story passed down through generations, often with a moral or lesson.
- **Truth:** The quality or state of being true.
- **Honesty:** The quality of being truthful and sincere.
- **Peer Pressure:** Influence from members of one's peer group.
- **Conformity:** Compliance with standards, rules, or laws.
- **Vanity:** Excessive pride in or admiration of one's appearance or achievements.

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

Academic Topics: Life Lessons, Honesty, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Emperor's New Clothes* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Ott's Tales: The Emperor's New Clothes* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 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 Emperor's New Clothes.'"
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, truth, honesty, peer pressure, conformity, vanity.
4. Ask students to think about a time when they were tempted to go along with something they knew wasn't right. Discuss how it felt and what they did.



Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Play the video "The Emperor's New Clothes" for the students.
2. During the video, pause at strategic moments and ensure understanding of the following:
 - Who are the main characters in the story?
 - What problem does the emperor encounter?
 - How do the travelers deceive the emperor and his advisors?
 - Why do the townspeople pretend to see the clothes?
 - What does the child do, and what is the reaction?
3. After the video, discuss the moral of the story:
 - What lessons can we learn from "The Emperor's New Clothes"?
 - Why is it important to tell the truth, even when others do not?

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "The Emperor's New Clothes."
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 emperor and his advisors went along with the lie and what eventually happened.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the story of "The Emperor's New Clothes."
 - Explain the moral of the story.
 - Discuss the importance of truth and honesty.
7. Close with an encouraging call to action: Highlight the lesson from 'The Emperor's New Clothes,' focusing on the importance of truth and honesty. Explain how being truthful and standing up for what is right can positively impact those around them and build a more honest community. Challenge students to think of one way they can demonstrate honesty 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 telling the truth and the consequences of conformity.