

The Honest Woodman | Lesson Plan

Why is honesty always the best policy?

Students will understand the importance of honesty and integrity and be able to explain how the woodman's actions in the fable "The Honest Woodman" demonstrate the positive consequences of being truthful.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fable is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the fable "The Honest Woodman."
- Explain the importance of honesty and integrity.
- Discuss the consequences of honesty and deceit.
- Identify the moral of the story.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fable:** A short story that teaches a moral lesson, often with animals or mythical characters.
- **Honesty:** The quality of being truthful and sincere.
- **Integrity:** The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.
- **Reward:** Something given in recognition of service, effort, or achievement.
- **Consequences:** The result or effect of an action or condition.

Educational Standards: CCRA.RL.2, CCRA.RL.4, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.3

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, American Values, Honesty

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Honest Woodman* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Honest Woodman* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a fable is: a short story that teaches a moral lesson. Today, students will learn the fable, usually attributed to Aesop and known as "The Honest Woodman."
2. Ask students if they have heard any fables before and share some titles if they have (e.g., The Tortoise and the Hare, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, etc.).
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: fable, honesty, integrity, reward, and consequences.
4. Ask students to think about a time when they were honest, even when it was difficult. Discuss how it felt and what happened as a result.



Scan to watch episode:

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Honest Woodman* to 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 woodman encounter?
 - How does the water fairy test the woodman?
 - What are the consequences of the woodman's honesty?
3. After the story, discuss the moral of the story:
 - What lessons can we learn from "The Honest Woodman"?
 - Why is it important to be honest and have integrity?

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "The Honest Woodman."
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 woodman's honesty was rewarded and what they can learn from it.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the story of "The Honest Woodman."
 - Explain the moral of the story.
 - Discuss the importance of honesty and integrity.
7. Close with an encouraging call to action. Highlight the lesson from "The Honest Woodman," focusing on the importance of honesty and integrity. Explain how being truthful can positively impact their lives and the lives of those around them. Challenge students to think of one way they can demonstrate honesty today and share their ideas with the class.

Extension Activity:

Have students create their own version of "The Honest Woodman," focusing on a time when they had to be honest in a difficult situation. They can rewrite the story to show how their honesty positively impacted their family or community.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 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 honesty and the positive outcomes that can result from it.