



Fables and Folktales

Target Audience: K-2nd grade

Description: This curriculum is designed to introduce young students to the concept of morals through the use of several well known folktales and fables. During each session, students will read a fable or folktale and then explore the intended moral through group discussion and activities such as a play, book design or group games.

Format: Each session is designed to last one hour, though some may be better suited for a 45-minute session.

Session 1: Students will read The Lion and The Mouse by Aesop, and then create their own illustrated story about believing in others.

Session 2: Students will read The Tortoise and The Hare by Aesop and then take part in a group relay race. At the end of the session, students will discuss the idea of bragging and then spend time complimenting others through another group game.

Session 3: Students will read, Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Jim Aylesworth and then duplicate the story through an interactive play. Students will have the opportunity to use several props and scripts to create the feeling of a real play.

Session 4: Students will read The Boy Who Cried Wolf by Aesop and The Berenstain Bears and the Truth by Stan and Jan Berenstain in order to illustrate the moral of always telling the truth. Students will then create a compare and contrast chart based on the two stories and a “lie collage” designed to create a physical representation of the abstract concept of a lie.

Session 5: Students will read The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson and then discuss the definition of a “stereotype.” Students will then use the included pictures to have a discussion about some of the common stereotypes everyone holds about certain groups of people. The final activity will include the creation of a duck or swan puppet that defines the students’ ideas of beauty. It can be as abstract or as concrete as the student desires.

Session 6: Students will read The Little Red Hen by Jerry Pinkney and then focus on the moral of hard work by discussing the importance of working hard and its benefits. The session’s activity will include the creation of soup mixes for the students to both donate to a local non-profit organization, as well as to take home to their families to enjoy their own benefits of hard work.

The “Fables and Folktales” curriculum can be borrowed for one month.