



Otis and Clara Reading Lesson Plans

Grade Level Preschool and Kindergarten

Learning Goals:

- Students will listen to the story of Otis and Clara and engage with the text through basic comprehension activities.

Introduction:

- Begin by showing the cover of the book and asking students what they think the story might be about based on the title and the cover illustration.
- Introduce the characters, Otis the Bulldog, and Clara the Cardinal, emphasizing their names and roles in the story.

Reading Activity:

- Read the story aloud to the students, pausing occasionally to ask simple questions about the plot.
 - "What is Otis afraid of?"
 - "Who helped Otis overcome his fear?"
- Use props or pictures to help children visualize the story elements, such as showing a picture of a mountain or a cardinal during relevant parts of the story.

Grade Level: Preschool and Kindergarten

Objective:

- Students will listen to the story of Otis and Clara and engage with the text through basic comprehension activities and engage in a creative activity related to the story.

Introduction:

- Review the characters and basic plot points of the story.
- Discuss the setting of the story, emphasizing the beach, Otis's bedroom, and Dogwood Mountain.

Reading Activity:

- Read the story aloud, encouraging students to listen for specific details about the characters, setting, and plot events.
- Pause after significant events and ask questions such as "How do you think Otis felt when he saw the mountain for the first time?"
- Use picture cards or illustrations to engage students in retelling specific parts of the story.

Comprehension and Creative Activity:

- Discuss the feelings of the characters at different points in the story. Ask students how they would feel in similar situations.
- Have students draw their favorite scene from the story and explain their choice to the class, encouraging creativity and storytelling.

Grade Level: 1st and 2nd Grade

Objective:

- Students will listen to the story of Otis and Clara and engage with the text through basic comprehension activities and engage in a writing activity related to the story.

Introduction:

- Review the main characters, setting, and the central conflict of the story.
- Discuss the emotions experienced by Otis and Clara throughout the story.

Reading and Character Analysis:

- Read the story aloud, emphasizing the characters' emotions and motivations.
- Engage students in a discussion about Otis's fear of heights and his journey towards overcoming it.
 - "Why do you think Otis was scared?"
 - "How did Clara help Otis overcome his fear?"

Writing Activity:

- Option 1: Have students imagine they are Otis. Ask them to write a short journal entry expressing Otis' thoughts and feelings before and after climbing Dogwood Mountain. Encourage them to include sensory details and emotions in their writing.
- Option 2: Have students write a letter from Otis to Clara, expressing gratitude for her support and encouragement.

Conclusion:

- Allow students to share their journal entries or letters with the class, promoting confidence in their writing skills.
- Discuss the themes of courage, friendship, and self-belief present in the story.
- Encourage students to reflect on times when they faced a fear and how they felt afterward.

Grade Level: 1st and 2nd Grade

Objective:

- Students will analyze the characters' traits, motivations, and changes throughout the story.
- Students will engage in a group discussion to explore the story's themes and messages.

Introduction:

- Read Otis and Clara and review the characters, setting, and the challenges faced by Otis in the story.
- Discuss the concept of character development and how characters can change over the course of a story.

Reading and Character Analysis:

- Read passages from the story, focusing on character interactions and pivotal moments.
- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character (e.g., Otis, Clara, Mr. Barker). Ask each group to discuss the character's traits, motivations, and how they contributed to the story's events.

Group Discussion and Critical Thinking:

- Bring the groups back together for a class discussion. Have each group share their findings about the assigned character.
- Discuss the themes of courage, self-belief, and friendship. Encourage students to share their insights about these themes and provide examples from the story.
- Engage in a group brainstorming session about other challenges characters might face and how they can overcome them, encouraging creative and critical thinking.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the key character traits and themes discussed during the lesson.
- Encourage students to reflect on the importance of confidence and supporting others.
- Assign a creative writing task where students write a short story featuring a character who overcomes a challenge using similar qualities as Otis. Allow students to share their stories with the class, promoting creativity and storytelling skills.