LESSON PLAN

The Shepherd's Boy

GRADES
2–4

READING LEVEL
2

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** The Shepherd's Boy; The moral is that dishonesty can lead to a loss of trust, making it difficult to be believed when one is finally telling the truth.
- **Plot Summary:** A young shepherd boy, feeling lonely, deceives villagers by falsely claiming a wolf is attacking his sheep. After tricking them twice, when a wolf actually appears, no one believes him. As a result, he loses his flock, illustrating the consequences of lying.
- **Key Characters and their significance:**
  - **The Shepherd Boy:** Represents youthful impulsiveness and the consequences of dishonesty.
  - **The Villagers:** Symbolize trust and the importance of believing in others based on past behavior.
  - **The Wolf:** Represents danger and the consequences of neglect due to misplaced trust.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the importance of honesty and trust.
  - Students will identify the consequences of dishonesty in personal relationships.
  - Students will analyze the characters' decisions and their impact on the story.
  - Students will reflect on their own experiences with truth and lies.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  - Why do you think the shepherd boy decided to lie in the first place?
  - How did the villagers’ reactions change after being deceived?
  - What lessons can we learn from the shepherd boy’s experience?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copy of "The Shepherd's Boy" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion about trust. Ask students if they have ever been in a situation where they felt they couldn't trust someone or were not trusted themselves. Share a very short moral story that highlights honesty.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Shepherd's Boy" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in

their own words. Highlight key moments that demonstrate the boy's deceit and the villagers' reactions.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters' motivations. Each group will identify what each character represents and how their actions contribute to the story's moral.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students think about a time they or someone they know faced a similar issue with honesty. Ask them to share their thoughts on how they resolved it or how it could have been avoided.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude with a quick class poll: "Do you think it's ever okay to lie?" Students can hold up thumbs up (yes), thumbs down (no), or sideways (it depends) to express their opinions.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Write a very short moral

✓ Original text available on the story page.