



Enchanted Forest — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making

Objective: Students will practice ethical decision-making through kindness challenges and understand that gifts are earned by giving, not taking.

Essential Question: *"What does the enchanted forest teach us about what really matters?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Green fabric/paper for forest setting, Natural materials (leaves, sticks, stones), Paper and crayons

Vocabulary: Enchanted, Forest, Threshold, Fairy, Task, Gift, Respect, Kindness, Magic, Courage

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Create a threshold. Before stepping through, each child says: "I enter with _____ (kindness, curiosity, courage)." This sets the tone.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at the threshold — discuss respect. Pause at the kindness test — discuss why kindness is the hardest strength. Pause at the gift — discuss needs vs. wants.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Kindness Challenge: draw scenario cards and find the kindest response. Discuss: was it easy? Why or why not?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create a forest gift from natural materials. Write: "My gift helps _____ because _____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Step back through the threshold. Share: "I'm taking _____ with me from the forest."

ASSESSMENT

Observe kindness reasoning during challenges. Review gifts and writing. Exit ticket: "Why did the forest test kindness instead of strength?"

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide scenario cards with pictures. Model kind responses before student practice.

Extend: Write a "Forest Guide" with rules, creatures, and what visitors learn. Create a sequel where a new hero visits.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a family kindness challenge: each family member does one unexpected act of kindness this week and shares what happened.
