



The Story Garden — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–3 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Social Awareness

Objective: Students will practice deep listening and storytelling, understanding that family stories are living things that grow when shared.

Essential Question: *"What grows when you listen to someone's story with your whole heart?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Paper "flower" templates, Crayons and markers, Popsicle sticks for "story stems"

Vocabulary: Story, Garden, Listen, Plant, Bloom, Tend, Family, Memory, Seed, Heritage

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Ask: "Who is the best storyteller you know? What makes them good?" Chart answers. Circle the word LISTENING.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause when stories bloom from listening. Emphasize: stories GROW when someone cares enough to listen deeply.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Deep Listening Pairs: tell, retell, add. Discuss: what did the listener catch that even the teller forgot?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create a story flower with a memory at the center and detail-petals around it.

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Plant story seeds in the class Story Jar. Commit: "I will listen to one family story this week."

ASSESSMENT

Observe listening skills during pairs activity. Review story flowers. Exit ticket: "What happens to stories nobody listens to?"

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide story flower templates with prompt labels. Allow verbal storytelling recorded by teacher.

Extend: Create a "Story Garden Guide" with tips for being a good listener and storyteller.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a story flower template. Ask families to fill it out together with a family story.
