

## AIEA Lesson Plan

Title: "Able To Fable"

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Grade Level: 5th grade-12th grade

Integrated Content Areas: Theatre and English

Objectives: By studying Aesop's Fables, students can then create original fables with morals with which they connect and identify.  
Students will write and present original fables and be introduced to the oral storytelling tradition.

Formative Assessment:

Writing Criteria:

Animal/Plant Character  
Human Characteristics  
Moral stated at the end  
Beginning/Middle/End  
Character Consistency

Presenting Criteria:

Enunciation, Being understood  
Projection, Being heard  
Expression, Communicated characters  
Eye Contact  
Connection, Personal investment

**Procedures:**

***Introduction:***

Open this lesson by reading one of Aesop's Fables to your class. Discuss briefly who Aesop was and where (how) he fits in history.

***Creating:***

Let the students know they will be creating an original fable and break down the fable you read. Categorize each part of the fable:

The characters, are they animal, plant or human?

What are some of the human characteristics?

What is the moral?

Discuss the beginning, the middle and the end.

Discuss character consistency.

Now let the students chose a moral with which they feel a connection. Then they should find an existing Aesop Fable that has that moral. They should rewrite the fable and change the characters and/or the setting. They may do this simply by changing the animals to different animals or they may modernize the setting and/or the characters. The point is to start with a moral and then follow the writing criteria.

**Presenting:**

Each student will read their fable for the class.

Go over the presenting criteria before the students perform.

Warm up with a little stretching and some tongue twisters.

Remind them to have expression and to make eye contact

This is a great exercise to help the students prepare for public speaking. It is short, they are familiar with the material and it can boost their confidence.

**Responding:**

Ask questions.

Really let them talk with you.

What about that moral spoke to them?

Is there a character in their fable with which they really relate?

How can you now identify with the oral storytelling tradition?

**Connecting:**

Identifying and/or connecting with the moral

How does studying Aesop's fables and writing your own original fable help you justify your own beliefs?

So now let's summarize the lesson.

We chose a fable.

We analyzed it.

We discussed morals.

We wrote an original fable using an Aesop's fable as a guide.

We presented our fables.

We responded to each other and our choices.

We made connections to each other and the past.

So now ask.....

Where can we go from here? Should we look deeper into the tradition of oral storytelling? Family traditions? Cultural exchange? Folktales? Fairytales? Parables? Ghost Stories?.....

***The possibilities are endless!!!***