

The Honest Story

This lesson focuses on Honesty as the best policy, even when we make a mistake. This lesson will allow students to highlight honest behavior through the creation of a class story focused on temptation and telling the truth.

Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Perseverance, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- ❑ Whiteboard or Smartboard
- ❑ Paper for the story

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.
See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding around the concept of honesty and why it's important to always tell the truth.
- Practice being honest, even when they are tempted to lie.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Students come from all different home situations. Remember- you cannot control that. All you can do is show up, be present and follow through on your words. Your integrity lays a foundation.

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Allow students to act out the next line in the story if speaking it is too difficult
- Encourage strong writers to help you write the words on the board



Share

5-7 minutes

Play “Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?”

Make sure that the teacher is the only person “accusing” a new person. Do this for several rounds until it is discovered that NO ONE stole the cookies...they just aren’t done yet!

Rhyme-

*Who stole the cookies from the jar?**NAME stole the cookies from the jar?**Who me (says the person named)*

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Yes you (said by the rest of the class)
Couldn't be! (says the student)
Then who (says the rest of the class)
NEW NAME (says the teacher only)

Repeat 3 times.

At the last round, the teacher says, OOPS. I forgot- they are still in the oven!

How did it feel to be accused of something you didn't do? How did it feel to find out that NO ONE took the cookies? Honesty is always the best policy. When we start pointing fingers and accusing people when things go missing, people's feelings can be hurt. It's best to assume the best in our friends and not assume anyone took anything!



Inspire

20 minutes

Honesty is the best policy. It's important to be honest all the time. Part of being a kind friend is helping others to be honest in all situations! Let's review what it means to be honest!

Invite student responses.

Yes, being honest means always telling the truth, no matter what! This is not always easy, but it is the kind choice to make, even when we are scared that we might get in trouble.

Ask:

- *How do our words show honesty?*
- *How do our actions show honesty?*
- *Why is it important to always be honest and tell the truth?*

Invite student responses.

These are great answers! Remember, Honesty is the Best Policy!

Explain that the class will read a story about the importance of Honesty and consequences when we choose to lie instead of being honest.

Read "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" retold by B.G. Hennessy

Read Aloud link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1axKaW61_78

Ask:

- How did the boy lie to the townspeople?
- How did they react the first time he told the lie?
- How did they act the third time?
- Why did they stop believing him?
- What horrible thing almost happened because no one trusted him?
- How might you get hurt if you are not honest with people that are caring for you?



Empower

5-7 minutes

Today you will create a group story about telling the truth. The teacher will start the story and then will go around the class and each student can add one sentence to the story. Remember, we want our character to be honest, even when they are faced with a tough decision.

Start with the following scenario written on the board:

Little rabbit is very excited about dessert tonight. His mother made a very special carrot cake and left it on the counter. Rabbit came in and saw it sitting there and his mother was nowhere to be seen. (have the next student add a sentence. Write each sentence down as you go around the room building the story.)

- Redirect students if they get off topic or start to have Rabbit make bad choices. The goal is to be honest, no matter what. If they get stuck, ask the following questions:
 - What should Rabbit do while waiting?
 - Should he touch the cake?
 - How will his mother feel if he eats some?
 - If he does taste it, what should he tell his mother?

Read the story at the very end. Remind the students that even if Rabbit made a poor choice and ate some of the cake, he can always be honest and fix his mistake. Remember, honesty is the best policy!



Reflect

5-7 minutes

Ask students for examples of times when it was difficult to tell the truth. Remind them that even when it's hard or when we make a mistake, we should always be honest, so people can trust our words when they are really important, like in our story!



Extension Ideas

- Have students create a picture to illustrate your story- write out the story and send it home with all the pictures as an Honesty Book.



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AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning ([CASEL](https://casel.org)) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the [CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs](https://casel.org/guide/effective-social-and-emotional-learning-programs).

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>

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