



Grade 2 - Unit 5 Reading - Traditional Stories & Lessons Learned

Unit Focus

In *Traditional Stories & Lessons Learned*, students strengthen comprehension of traditional literature by analyzing how characters, events, and story structures convey central messages and moral lessons. Through the study of fables, trickster tales, folktales, and pourquoi tales, students learn to recognize recurring patterns and understand how authors use characters' actions and consequences to teach values. They interpret simple symbolism and identify thematic messages that reflect universal lessons across cultures and stories. This unit supports students in connecting these lessons to their own lives, helping them consider how literature can guide thinking about choices, behavior, and relationships.

Instruction is grounded in the Science of Reading, integrating systematic instruction in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension to support the development of skilled, independent readers and writers. Students engage in structured literacy instruction through Foundations, which provides explicit instruction in word recognition and encoding; Bookworms, which builds background knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension through read-alouds and shared reading; and Geodes, which allows students to apply phonics skills in connected, decodable texts to build fluency and accuracy. Teachers provide differentiated targeted practice across the five pillars of literacy.

Students engage with high-quality texts that build knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension while supporting close reading of grade-level standards, including *The Lion and the Mouse*, *The Dog and His Bone*, *The Jay and The Peacock*, *The Fox and The Grapes*, and *The Crow and The Pitcher*. Other featured titles include *The Hare and The Tortoise*, *The Fox and The Stork*, *The Wolf and The Crane*, *The Ant and The Grasshopper*, *Belling the Cat*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Tops and Bottoms*, *Raven*, *Monkey*, and the pourquoi tale *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)	Transfer	
Common Core English Language Arts: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1)Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2)Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3)Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.6)Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7)Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.9)	<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to...</i> T1 Evaluate multiple viewpoints and experiences in both literature and real-world situations, identifying the motivations behind different choices in order to respond to others with empathy and understanding.	
	Meaning	
	Understanding(s)	Essential Question(s)
	<i>Students will understand that...</i> U1 Traditional stories use characters, events, and outcomes to teach lessons that can be applied to real life. U2 A character's traits influence their actions, and those actions help reveal the lesson of the story. U3 Sounds, letters, and patterns work together to support decoding and spelling of words. U4 Reading accurately, smoothly, and with expression helps readers focus on meaning and better understand the text.	<i>Students will keep considering...</i> Q1 How do traditional stories like fables, trickster tales, and pourquoi tales teach lessons? Q2 How do characters' actions and choices reveal the lesson of a story? Q3 How do sounds, letters, and patterns work together to help me read and spell words? Q4 How does reading smoothly and accurately help me understand what I read?

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10)
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.4)
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5)
- Distinguish long and short vowels when reading regularly spelled one-syllable words. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.A)
- Know spelling-sound correspondences for additional common vowel teams. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.B)
- Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.C)
- Decode words with common prefixes and suffixes. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.D)
- Identify words with inconsistent but common spelling-sound correspondences. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.E)
- Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3.F)
- Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4.A)
- Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4.B)
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4.C)
- Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion). (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1.A)
- Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1.B)
- Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1.C)

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- Alternate Perspectives: Interpret or critique complementary and competing approaches, experiences, and worldviews in order to develop an empathetic perspective. (POG.5.2)

U5 Vocabulary knowledge supports making meaning from text and deepening understanding.

Q5 How can the words I know help me understand what I read?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...

K1 The difference between fantasy (fables, trickster tales, and pourquoi) and realistic fiction.

K2 Folktales are stories that explain events, teach lessons, or show how characters solve problems in clever or unusual ways.

K3 A fable is a short story that features personified animals and ends with a specific moral or lesson.

K4 A trickster tale is a story centered on a clever character who uses tricks and sneaky behavior to solve problems or get what they want.

K5 A pourquoi tale is a story that explains the "why" behind something in nature, such as how an animal got its specific features.

K6 Personification is animals showing human traits.

K7 A lesson or moral is the big idea the author wants the reader to learn and apply to their own life.

K8 Sounds, letters, and spelling patterns work together to form words, supporting accurate reading and spelling.

K9 Reading with accuracy, fluency, and expression supports understanding of text.

K10 Vocabulary supports understanding of text and builds deeper meaning.

K11 Foundations:

- sounds of oi and oy
- spelling generalizations of /oi/ sound
- long o sound of oa, oe, and ow
- use of spelling option procedure of long /o/
- /ou/ sound of ou and ow

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...

S1 Recognizing genres and their differences and similarities.

S2 Explaining how different types of folktales teach lessons, explain events, or show clever problem-solving.

S3 Asking and answering "Why" and "How" questions using evidence from folktales.

S4 Explaining how pourquoi tales describe why things in nature happen.

S5 Identifying character traits by analyzing what a character says and does.

S6 Comparing and contrasting characters across different stories or different versions of the same story.

S7 Connecting traits to outcomes by explaining how a character's personality affected the story's problem.

S8 Determining the moral or lesson of a story and provide supporting evidence from the text.

S9 Decoding unfamiliar words and spelling words correctly using their knowledge of sounds, letters, and patterns.

S10 Reading aloud with accuracy, smoothness, and expression to focus on comprehension.

S11 Using known words, context clues, and new vocabulary to understand and make meaning from texts.