



LITERATURE LESSON PLANS

Good children's literature
appeals not only to the child
in the adult,
but to the adult in the child.

~ ANONYMOUS ~

Hans Brinker 2

Time: 40 minutes

Reading: Chapter 1

Review: Character and life of Mary Mapes Dodge

Goal: Introduce the concept that eyes are the window to the soul; identify the character of Hans Brinker

Principle: The eyes are the window of the soul.

Scripture: The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness (Matthew 6:22-23).

TEACHER

Vocabulary:

canal (n.) An artificial waterway for transportation or irrigation.

character (n.) Distinctive qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others.

clogs (n.) Wooden shoes used for outdoor use.

klompen (n.) Dutch word for wooden shoes.

lithe (adj.) Gracefully slender, moving and bending with ease.

Mynheer (n.) Dutch word for mister.

peasant (n.) A country person that depends economically on the farming of land.

peat (n.) Partially carbonized vegetable matter saturated with water; can be used as a fuel when dried.

pompous (adj.) Puffed up with vanity; showy with grandeur.

virtue (n.) The practice of moral duties; doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

zomerhuis (n.) Dutch word for summerhouse.



Preparation to Teach:

1. Be certain that you have read the entire classic before teaching. For this lesson, reread Chapter 1, "Hans and Gretel."
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words.
3. Gather all the resources needed for the lesson: the classic, student vocabulary card, Hans Brinker's character graphic organizers, and coloring page 2, Hans tied Gretel's wooden skate.



Teaching Plan:

1. Distribute student binders.
2. From Lesson 1, review the character of Mary Mapes Dodge and that *Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates* is both a domestic tale and a "rocking chair trip" of Holland. (Dodge)

STUDENT

Key Word:

goodness (n.) Moral excellence; virtue; kindness.

? Reason Questions:

1. Why do you think Hans and Gretel listened to their mother immediately when she called them? Why was it hard for them to obey?
2. Describe Hans Brinker's character. Why did Hans suddenly show compassion for his sister?
3. How do you know that the Brinker family was poor?
4. What tells you that the Brinkers were happy in spite of their poverty? Do you think their love for each other eased their troubles? Explain your answer.
5. Describe two ways you can show your family that you love them.



Notebook Record:

1. Color your coloring page with your colored pencils.
2. Record the following phrases on your Hans Brinker's character graphic organizer:

External:

"15 years old"

"great square shoulders and bushy yellow hair"

"a solid, hearty-looking boy, with honest eyes, and a brow that seemed to bear a sign 'goodness within'"

3. Pin the student vocabulary card on the Treasure Chest bulletin board and define the word for the children. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle.
From the definition of goodness, we can understand that its meaning—"moral excellence"—is rooted in the very nature and character of God.
4. Introduce the principle to the children. Teach them what the Bible says about a person's eyes being the "lamp of his soul." In Proverbs 20:27, the soul of man is compared to being a candle: "The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord searching all the innermost parts of his being." And in Matthew 6:22-23, Jesus taught us, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"
The character that we have is a result of moral choices and decisions that we make on a daily basis. The condition of our heart shines through our eyes for all to see.
5. Distribute coloring page 1, "Hans and Gretel on the ice," to the children.
6. Read chapter 1 aloud to the children.
7. Write Hans Brinker's character notes on the chalkboard and have children copy onto their Hans Brinker's character graphic organizers.
8. Ask the reason questions and have children respond orally.
9. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat the student oral work.
10. You may end with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

Internal:

"Hans and Gretel were good children; without a thought of yielding to the temptation to linger."



Oral Work:

My eyes are the window of my soul and reveal the condition of my heart.



Hans tied Gretel's wooden skate to her worn-out shoe.



Windmill



Our Project:

Children will design and create a windmill, which can be used as table centerpieces for their culminating Dutch Festival.

Supplies:

- large styrofoam cup, 1 per child
- spray paint (brown, beige, grey)
- white, black, brown or grey plastic canvas (found in craft stores) or construction paper
- brass paper fastener, 1 per child
- paint and brushes
- magic markers (red and blue)
- toothpicks, 1 per child
- glue
- scissors

Preparation:

1. Create a sample windmill.
2. Spray paint paper cups and allow to dry before the children handle.

Instructions:

1. Provide each child a painted cup.
2. Children will create two equal-sized windmill arms from white plastic canvas or construction paper the same length as the height of the cup used.
3. Decorate windmill with canvas or construction paper windows, doors, and ladder.
4. Create a Dutch flag and glue to toothpick. Insert on top of windmill.
5. Help children put a hole in the center of their windmill arms and windmill. Attach with brass paper fastener.
6. Have children write their names on the inside of the windmill.