

Lesson Plan

Story Morals

Book: *Ogres*

Series: Fairy Tale Creatures

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice identifying the moral of a story and analyzing how that moral might shape people's behavior.

Supplies

- *Ogres* book

Before the Activity

Read the *Ogres* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Stories of ogres often describe them capturing or eating children. According to the book, these stories were sometimes used to warn children not to go far from home. Ask students to turn to a neighbor and discuss the following questions:

- Why might wandering far from home be dangerous to children? (Sample answer: The children might get lost, or they might get hurt by people or animals.)
- How might stories of scary ogres help prevent dangerous behavior? (Sample answer: Children might avoid the dangerous behaviors because they're afraid an ogre will eat them if they do those things.)

Next, turn back to Chapter 1 ("Danger in the Woods") and read through the story again. This time, students should listen for behaviors this story might be warning children against. After you read the chapter, have students turn back to their partners and answer the following questions:

- What dangerous behaviors do the boys take? (Sample answers: The boys go deep into the woods, they stay out at night, and they talk to strangers.)
- Do you think making up scary stories is a good way to get children to do (or not do) these things? Why or why not?

Come back together as a large group, and invite a few students to share their answers. Then, ask the class to brainstorm other ways to motivate people to do (or not do) things that might work better than telling stories of made-up monsters.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about the ogre stories? Could they explain their opinions and support them with details or reasons?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for literature, grade 3 (RL 3.2).