

Prince Ivan and the Firebird

Introduction

This lesson is designed for Kansas elementary school and home school classrooms for younger learners (K-3). The specific standards used are for second-grade classrooms. The goals of the lesson are to introduce students to a traditional folktale from a different culture (Russia), and help them recount the plot of the story, determine its moral, and answer questions about its characters and setting. It encourages them to use pictures as visual aids in retelling the plot. The lesson addresses Kansas educational standards in reading literature. There is a supplemental art activity that may be used if the instructor would like.

Instructors are encouraged to contact the KU Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) if they would like the CREES outreach coordinator to visit their classroom and present about Russian, East European, and/or Eurasian culture. You can contact CREES at CREES@ku.edu

Standards

- RL.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges
- RL.2.7 Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

Lesson Objectives

- Answer questions about the story including who the characters are, where and when the story takes place, what happens, and why these things happen.
- Describe how the different characters respond to the same challenge.
- Use images to help them put the plot events of the story in order.
- Retell what happens in the story and identify the central message, lesson, or moral.

Prerequisite Knowledge

No prerequisite knowledge is required for this lesson.

Materials

For this lesson the instructor should read a copy of the Russian folk tale *Prince Ivan and the Firebird*. It may be helpful to have a map or globe to show students where Russia is located. The instructor will also need to print the 11 accompanying pictures from the story for students to put

in chronological order. For the art portion of the lesson, the instructor will need white, red, yellow, and orange colored paper, scissors, pencils, glue, and the firebird template document.

Learning Plan

1. Read *Prince Ivan and the Firebird* to the students.
2. Have them guess what they think the word Tsar means using context clues from the story and the illustrations.
3. Once you've finished reading the story ask the students if they liked it and why.
4. Ask them if they remember where the story took place. Then show them where Russia is on a map or globe. Do they think Russia is a big country or a small country?
5. Ask the students to list the main characters in the story. You can show them pictures to spark their memory. Did they have a favorite character?
6. Lay out pictures from the story that are scrambled in terms of order. Have them work together to put the pictures in the correct order based on the story.
7. Now that the pictures are in order, ask them to use them as a guide to retell the plot of the story. There are only 11 pictures, and they don't show everything that happened so they will have to fill in the gaps. Guide them when events are out of order or if they forget a major event. Don't start off by telling them explicitly, try to guide them with questions that spark their memories.
8. Remind them of the questions Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How. Did they answer all the questions in their retelling?
9. Ask them what they think the lesson or moral of the story was and why they think that.
10. Complete the firebird handprint activity for the visual arts portion of this lesson if desired. Directions are in a separate document.
11. If you don't have time to complete the art activity, there is also a firebird coloring page available.

Assessment Suggestions:

Use the picture ordering activity as a way to assess if students recall the sequence of events in the story. Since the pictures do not reflect each event, you can see how well they can narrate the story based on how they can fill in the gaps between pictures. Use the suggested questions to determine how well they can answer who, what, where, when, why, and how, and how well they can determine the moral or lesson of the story.













