ASSURE LESSON PLAN  
Vocabulary Development using Aesop’s Fables  
Language Arts  
Grade 7  
Ohio Academic Content Standards:  
Acquisition of Vocabulary A1, F8; Writing Conventions C5

Analyze Learners  

There are 18 heterogeneously grouped 7th students. The majority are girls. It’s an inner-city population with a wide range of abilities. The majority of students is hard working and enjoy challenging work. They enjoy a challenge and applying skills in creative ways. They are productive when they are involved in the learning process. They learn best by figuring things out and learning from their mistakes. A few students lack motivation, so specific grouping should be considered. Students should have a basic understanding of sentence structure and the use of various parts of speech. They should have a basic understanding of the uses for a thesaurus and dictionary.

State Objectives - Learning will take place in the cognitive domain using intellectual skills to manipulate vocabulary.

1. When working in small groups, 7th grade Language Arts students will be able to collaboratively select a fable of interest in 10 minutes.
2. When given 20 vocabulary words, 7th grade Language Arts groups will be able to apply their knowledge of sentence structure and parts of speech to use them correctly in rewriting a story with 85% accuracy.
3. When given a dictionary and thesaurus, 7th grade Language Arts groups will be able to substitute unknown words with words that are familiar with 90% accuracy.
4. When given a fable, 7th grade Language Arts groups will be able to reconstruct a story using all 20 vocabulary words correctly with 80% accuracy.
Select Methods, Media, and Materials

The method will be large-group instruction with small groups.

- *Wordskills workbook*. The teacher will go over the vocabulary for the unit highlighting the part of speech. The workbook is familiar to students as well as the vocabulary stories that are included.
- *Aesop’s Fables handout*. The students will be given a copy of the handouts and time to read over the stories. Fables were chosen because of the simplicity of the stories and their interesting morals.
- *Decorative writing paper*. Students enjoy writing more when they have special supplies. The teacher will supply a variety of different papers for final stories to be written on.

Utilize Materials and Media

The teacher will preview the vocabulary for the unit so that it is familiar.

The teacher will prepare the handouts and have sufficient decorative paper.

The environment needs no special preparations. The students will arrange their desks into groups at the appropriate time.

The teacher will prepare the students by presenting the overall plan and objectives of the lesson. An evaluation guide will be distributed.

Each student will use his or her *Wordskills* workbook to preview the vocabulary with the teacher. The students will then be assigned to groups and the Aesop’s Fables handout will be distributed.


**Require Learner Participation**

*Large-Group Activity*

Students will participate by explaining how each part of speech is used and giving examples using their vocabulary words. Every student has a workbook so everyone is involved.

*Small-Group Activity*

Students are required to incorporate their vocabulary into one of Aesop’s fables. Each student must supply a list of at least 5 sentences that they wrote incorporating the vocabulary. One completely rewritten fable will be submitted by the group that incorporates all 20 vocabulary words.

**Evaluate and Revise**

The teacher will evaluate the students using the following criteria:

- Were all vocabulary words used correctly?
- Were students able to use a dictionary and thesaurus effectively?
- Is the final copy neat and free from errors?
- Were students able to complete the task in the given amount of time?
Androcles

A slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about there he came upon a Lion lying down moaning and groaning. At first he turned to flee, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, he turned back and went up to him. As he came near, the Lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding, and Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it, and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the Lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the Lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day used to bring him meat from which to live. But shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured, and the slave was sentenced to be thrown to the Lion, after the latter had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his Court came to see the spectacle, and Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the Lion was let loose from his den and rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim. But as soon as he came near to Androcles he recognized his friend, and fawned upon him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog. The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him, who told him the whole story. Whereupon the slave was pardoned and freed, and the Lion let loose to his native forest.

Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.

The Ant and the Chrysalis

An Ant nimbly running about in the sunshine in search of food came across a Chrysalis that was very near its time of change. The Chrysalis moved its tail, and thus attracted the attention of the Ant, who then saw for the first time that it was alive. "Poor, pitiable animal!" cried the Ant disdainfully. "What a sad fate is yours! While I can run hither and thither, at my pleasure, and, if I wish, ascend the tallest tree, you lie imprisoned here in your shell, with power only to move a joint or two of your scaly tail." The Chrysalis heard all this, but did not try to make any reply. A few days after, when the Ant passed that way again, nothing but the shell remained. Wondering what had become of its contents, he felt himself suddenly shaded and fanned by the gorgeous wings of a beautiful Butterfly. "Behold in me," said the Butterfly, "your much-pitied friend! Boast now of your powers to run and climb as long as you can get me to listen." So saying, the Butterfly rose in the air,
and, borne along and aloft on the summer breeze, was soon lost to the sight of the Ant forever.

Appearances are deceptive.

The Fox and the Goat

A Fox one day fell into a deep well and could find no means of escape. A Goat, overcome with thirst, came to the same well, and seeing the Fox, inquired if the water was good. Concealing his sad plight under a merry guise, the Fox indulged in a lavish praise of the water, saying it was excellent beyond measure, and encouraging him to descend. The Goat, mindful only of his thirst, thoughtlessly jumped down, but just as he drank, the Fox informed him of the difficulty they were both in and suggested a scheme for their common escape. "If," said he, "you will place your forefeet upon the wall and bend your head, I will run up your back and escape, and will help you out afterwards." The Goat readily assented and the Fox leaped upon his back. Steadying himself with the Goat's horns, he safely reached the mouth of the well and made off as fast as he could. When the Goat upbraided him for breaking his promise, he turned around and cried out, "You foolish old fellow! If you had as many brains in your head as you have hairs in your beard, you would never have gone down before you had inspected the way up, nor have exposed yourself to dangers from which you had no means of escape."

Look before you leap.

The Mice and the Weasels

The Weasels and the Mice waged a perpetual war with each other, in which much blood was shed. The Weasels were always the victors. The Mice thought that the cause of their frequent defeats was that they had no leaders set apart from the general army to command them, and that they were exposed to dangers from lack of discipline. They therefore chose as leaders Mice that were most renowned for their family descent, strength, and counsel, as well as those most noted for their courage in the fight, so that they might be better marshaled in battle array and formed into troops, regiments, and battalions. When all this was done, and the army disciplined, and the herald Mouse had duly proclaimed war by challenging the Weasels, the newly chosen generals bound their heads with straws, that they might be more conspicuous to all their troops. Scarcely had the battle begun, when a
great rout overwhelmed the Mice, who scampered off as fast as they could to their holes. The generals, not being able to get in on account of the ornaments on their heads, were all captured and eaten by the Weasels.

The more honor the more danger.

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**The Thief and the Innkeeper**

A Thief hired a room in a tavern and stayed a while in the hope of stealing something which should enable him to pay his reckoning. When he had waited some days in vain, he saw the Innkeeper dressed in a new and handsome coat and sitting before his door. The Thief sat down beside him and talked with him. As the conversation began to flag, the Thief yawned terribly and at the same time howled like a wolf. The Innkeeper said, "Why do you howl so fearfully?" "I will tell you," said the Thief, "but first let me ask you to hold my clothes, or I shall tear them to pieces. I know not, sir, when I got this habit of yawning, nor whether these attacks of howling were inflicted on me as a judgment for my crimes, or for any other cause; but this I do know, that when I yawn for the third time, I actually turn into a wolf and attack men." With this speech he commenced a second fit of yawning and again howled like a wolf, as he had at first. The Innkeeper, hearing his tale and believing what he said, became greatly alarmed and, rising from his seat, attempted to run away. The Thief laid hold of his coat and entreated him to stop, saying, "Pray wait, sir, and hold my clothes, or I shall tear them to pieces in my fury, when I turn into a wolf." At the same moment he yawned the third time and set up a terrible howl. The Innkeeper, frightened lest he should be attacked, left his new coat in the Thief’s hand and ran as fast as he could into the inn for safety. The Thief made off with the coat and did not return again to the inn.

Every tale is not to be believed.