

FAIRY TALES WITH A LESSON

“Fairness, Truth & Freedom – Choosing What Is Right, Even When It Is Hard”

LESSON PLAN

1. Theme: Fairy tales with a moral lesson / Fairness – Justice – Truth – Freedom

2. Grade: 4rd

3. Lesson type: Lesson for acquiring new knowledge

4. Duration: 40 min.

5. Basic terms: fairness, justice, equality, truth, lie, honesty, freedom, limits, trust, responsibility

6. Pedagogical methods: storytelling, dialog, discussion, demonstration, group games, role-play, reflection

7. Means:

board/interactive board, projector, PPT, markers, colored cards, worksheets, flipchart

8. Goals:

Educational goals — Students will learn:

- ✓ What fairness and justice mean in everyday life
- ✓ How to recognize fair vs. unfair situations
- ✓ The difference between truth and lie
- ✓ Why telling the truth builds trust
- ✓ What freedom means and why it requires limits
- ✓ How fairness and honesty are essential values in Islam (adl and sidq)
- ✓ How rules protect everyone’s safety and rights

Formational goals — Students will learn to:

- ✓ Express their opinions honestly

- ✓ Show empathy to others who experience unfairness
- ✓ Practice fairness during group work and play
- ✓ Respect others' personal space and freedom
- ✓ Control impulses and follow agreed rules
- ✓ Reflect on their choices and how they affect others
- ✓ Build trustworthy and responsible behavior

9. Cross-curricular connections: Ethics, Philosophy, Social & Emotional Learning, Citizenship Education

10. Intra-subject connections: Me and the Others; Cooperation; Class Rules; Feelings; Respect & Responsibility

11. Expected results:

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

- ✓ Explain fairness using their own words
- ✓ Identify truthful and untruthful statements
- ✓ Show understanding of how freedom works together with rules
- ✓ Demonstrate learning through games, group work, and worksheets
- ✓ Give examples of Islamic teachings that encourage fairness and honesty
- ✓ Evaluate simple situations and choose the fair action

12. Preparation for the teacher:

- PPT slides for key concepts
- Printed worksheets “Fairness Web,” “Truth Path,” and “Freedom & Limits Map”
- Story script
- Green/red/yellow/gray cards
- Flipchart paper for brainstorming

- Small props for role-play (optional)

13. Structure of the lesson

A. Introduction — Story: “The Three Seeds of Justice” (5 min)

Story:

A mother in a small Greek village gave each of her three children a seed. “Plant it in the most fair and honest way you can,” she said. The first child hid the seed so no one else could see it. The second child traded the seed and lied, saying, “It was mine from the beginning.” The third child planted the seed in the shared family garden and said, “There is room for everyone. A fair choice helps all of us.” Only the third seed grew — tall, green, and strong.

Discussion questions:

- Which child acted fairly? Why?
- How did lying hurt the second child’s result?
- Why did the third child’s plant grow the best?
- What happens when we choose fairness, even if it takes effort?

Transition:

“Today we will explore three important values — fairness, truth, and freedom — and how they guide our choices, just like sunshine guides a growing plant.”

CORE CONCEPTS – THEORY

Background knowledge for the educator

Concept 1: Fairness / Justice

Definition: Fairness is treating people equally and giving everyone what they need to participate. It involves the principles of justice, equality, balance, and respect for others' rights.

Key Elements

Sharing resources fairly

Taking turns

Applying rules equally

Avoiding favoritism

Considering the needs of others

Understanding that fairness might not always be “exactly the same,” but “what is right for each person”

Connection to Islamic Education

Adl (Justice) is a core value in Islam.

The Qur'an repeatedly encourages fairness, even in difficult situations.

Examples for children:

Being fair in games

Being kind and just to siblings

Not taking more than their share

Giving everyone a chance to speak

Concept 2: Truth / Lie — Honesty (Sidq)

Definition: Truthfulness means saying what is real and honest, even when it is difficult. A lie is intentionally hiding or changing the truth to gain something or avoid consequences.

Key Elements

Telling what really happened

Admitting mistakes

Keeping promises

Being trustworthy

Building relationships based on honesty

Why Truth Matters to Children

- Truthfulness creates emotional safety in the classroom.
- When children tell the truth, teachers and peers trust them.
- Lies lead to fear, confusion, and broken friendships.
- Learning honesty early reduces conflict and prevents long-term behavioral patterns.

Connection to Islamic Teaching

Truthfulness (sidq) is praised repeatedly in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Truthfulness leads to goodness and goodness leads to Paradise."

Concept 3: Freedom with Limits

Definition: Freedom means having choices and being able to express oneself. Limits are rules that protect the rights, safety, and well-being of everyone.

Freedom ≠ doing anything you want.

Freedom = choosing actions responsibly within rules that help the community.

Why Limits Are Needed

Children may feel that rules "take away" freedom. T

Limits keep everyone safe.

Freedom without limits can harm others.

Rules allow fair play and cooperation.

True freedom grows stronger when used wisely.

Connection to Islamic Values

Islam encourages responsible freedom:

Avoid harming oneself or others

Respecting others' rights

Understanding that freedom is a trust (amanah)

Balancing personal desires with community well-being

Relationship Between the Three Concepts

These three values are interconnected:

Fairness requires truth.

You cannot be fair if you hide the truth or lie about what happened.

Freedom requires fairness.

One person's freedom cannot take away another person's rights.

Truth strengthens freedom.

Honest people are trusted with more choices.

Fairness + Truth + Freedom = Responsible Citizenship

In brief: What Is Fairness / Justice?

- Giving everyone equal chances
- Sharing and taking turns
- Following the same rules as everyone else
- Treating others with respect
- In Islam, adl (justice) is a major moral principle encouraged by Allah

Examples:

- Letting someone else have a turn on the swing
- Sharing classroom materials
- Not choosing favorites in a game
- Listening before judging

Truth and Lie — Honesty (sidq)

- Truth = telling what really happened
- Lie = saying something untrue to hide or gain something
- Truth builds trust between friends, family, and classmates
- Lies create fear, confusion, and broken relationships

Examples:

- Admitting a mistake even when it is hard
- Not blaming others for something you did
- Telling the teacher the real story
- Keeping your word when you promise something

Freedom & Limits

- Freedom means having choices
- Limits or rules protect everyone's rights and safety
- Freedom grows stronger when it is used with responsibility
- Without limits, freedom can harm others

Examples:

- Free to play, but not to push
- Free to talk, but not to interrupt others
- Free to draw, but not on walls
- Free to move, but respecting personal space

14. Structure, content and timeline

1. Introduction to key ideas (15 min.)

Teacher activity:

- Reads the story “The Three Seeds of Justice”
- Leads a short conversation
- Introduces and explains key terms: fairness, justice, truth, lie, freedom, limits
- Shows simple PPT images (balanced scale, open window, stop sign, handshake)

Student activity:

- Listen and respond
- Share personal examples
- Connect ideas to their daily experiences

Methods: storytelling, dialog, guided discussion

Tools: board, PPT, flipchart

2. Game — “Fair or Unfair?” (6 min.)

Instructions: Students hold up green card for fair, red card for unfair.

Scenarios:

- A child lets a new student join the game.
- Someone cuts in line at the cafeteria.
- Two students share the last pair of scissors.
- One student always chooses the game and never lets others decide.
- A child helps another carry heavy books.

Pause after each scenario and ask:

“Whose feelings are affected in this situation?”

“How could this be made fairer?”

3. Game — “Truth or Lie?” (6 min.)

Materials:

- Yellow card = truth
- Gray card = lie

Scenarios:

- “I spilled the paint by accident.”
- “It wasn’t me!” (even though it was)
- “I forgot my homework, but I will bring it tomorrow.”
- “He broke the toy!” (when pointing to an innocent classmate)
- “I saw what happened and I will tell the truth.”

Discussion:

“How does telling the truth make the situation better?”

“What happens to trust when someone lies?”

4. Worksheet — “My Fairness Web” (8 min.)

Students complete a worksheet that includes:

- ✓ A web with three sections: Fairness, Truthfulness, Freedom & Limits
- ✓ Matching pictures to the correct value
- ✓ “Circle the fair choice” activity
- ✓ Draw one moment when they were fair or honest
- ✓ Write a simple sentence: “I feel free when...” / “Fairness means...” (adapted by age)

Teacher supports children individually, especially younger grades.

15. Variations:

- Replace card games with puppet scenes
- Create “Class Fairness Rules” poster
- Use social stories for children who need more concrete examples
- Role-play courtroom style: “Is it fair? Let’s judge!”
- Older students can debate a scenario: “What is the fairest solution?”

16. Additional stories (Islam-based moral tales)

A. Umar and the Milk Seller

A girl refuses to mix milk with water even when no one is watching: “Allah sees everything.”

Lesson: Honesty is a duty even when hidden.

B. The Two Brothers and the Bread

Two brothers share a loaf of bread. The older gives his younger brother the larger piece.

Lesson: Fairness includes generosity and kindness.

C. The Bird and the Open Sky

A bird is freed from its cage. At first it flies wildly and bumps into other birds.

Slowly it learns:

“Freedom works best when I fly with care.”

Lesson: Freedom becomes beautiful when used responsibly.