

PACE

Sample Lesson Plan

Dr. De Soto

by William Steig

HONESTY



DEFINITION: Honesty: (*noun*) the quality of being truthful and trustworthy; not lying, stealing, or cheating

Adjective: honest

Synonyms: trustworthiness; truthfulness; frankness; openness

Discuss the definition of honesty, focusing on the idea of “trust.”



June Book of the Month: *Dr. De Soto* by William Steig

Grades K-3

I. Reading Comprehension: Answer the following questions in the spaces below (or out loud):

1. Who are the main characters in this book?

2. What does the sign outside of Dr. De Soto's office say?

3. Where does Dr. De Soto stand when treating larger animals?

4. When does the fox return for treatment?

5. Why does Dr. De Soto agree to treat the fox?

6. How does Dr. De Soto “outfox” the fox?

II. Matching: Vocabulary Match the words on the left with their meaning on the right.

1. extract	_____	a. to touch or stroke something gently
2. woozy	_____	b. confused or dizzy
3. hoist	_____	c. to pass through something completely
4. caress	_____	d. to lift something, especially using a mechanical device
5. permeate	_____	e. to pull or draw something out, like a tooth
6. timid	_____	f. shy; not brave

III. Sequencing:

Write #1 next to the first thing that happened in the book. Then write #2, etc.

Dr. De Soto's wife feels sorry for the fox.
Dr. De Soto is a mouse dentist who takes care of big and small animals.
The fox's teeth are stuck together.
One day a fox comes to Dr. De Soto's office with a bandage on his jaw.
Dr. De Soto extracts the fox's tooth.

IV. Summarizing:

Write or tell a short summary of the book in your own words.

V. Discussing:

Dr. De Soto & Honesty

1. Does Dr. De Soto trust most of the animal patients who come to see him? How do we know this?
2. Do Dr. De Soto's patients trust him? How do we know this?
3. Do you think that the fox is an honest animal? Why or why not?
4. How is Dr. De Soto dishonest at the end of the story? Why do you think he is?
5. Do you think it's important for doctors and dentists to be honest with their patients? Explain your answer.
6. What could Dr. De Soto have done differently so he didn't have to lie to the fox at the end of the story?

VI. Activities:

Complete one or both of the below activities:

1. Draw a picture of some of the animals that Dr. De Soto takes care of.
2. Count the number of teeth in your mouth and, if you have time, learn the names of each tooth. On a piece of cardboard, draw a picture of an open mouth (an oval). Cut it out. Fold the oval in half and draw the tongue in the middle. Then unfold the oval. Take mini-marshmallows and glue them onto the cardboard mouth to represent each tooth.

ANSWER KEY

I. Reading Comprehension

1. The main characters are Dr. De Soto, his wife, and the fox. They're looking for a safe place to raise their family.
2. The sign says that Dr. De Soto will not accept cats and other dangerous animals for treatment.
3. He stands on a ladder.
4. He returns at 11:00 the next morning.
5. He agrees because his wife feels sorry for the fox.
6. Dr. De Soto puts some kind of glue inside the fox's mouth so that the fox cannot eat him.

II. Matching

1. E
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. C
6. F

III. Sequencing

- 3, 1, 5, 2, 4

IV. Summarizing (Answers will vary)

Dr. De Soto is a mouse who is a dentist. He takes care of all kinds of animals except cats and other animals that are dangerous to mice. One day a fox with a bad tooth comes to his office. Dr. De Soto doesn't trust foxes but his wife feels sorry for him because he's in so much pain. Dr. De Soto decides to treat him and extracts the fox's tooth. While he is working on the fox's mouth, the fox is dreaming out loud about eating the dentist and his wife. The two mice hear him dreaming about eating them. Dr. De Soto tells the fox that he has to come back the next day to get his new tooth. That night, Dr. De Soto and his wife come up with a plan to protect themselves from being eaten by the fox. The next day, the fox returns, planning to eat the mice. But Dr. De Soto offers a new "treatment" (to prevent further tooth problems) which the fox agrees to try. After the dentist finishes the treatment, the fox can't open his mouth, so he can't eat the mice. The fox leaves, outsmarted by the dentist and his wife.

V. Discussing

1. He doesn't appear to be afraid of them and he accepts almost all types of animals.
2. Dr. De Soto's patients seem to trust him because he was very popular and they continue to visit him.
3. The fox is not honest with the De Sotos. He is planning on eating them when his tooth is fixed, but pretends that he is just joking about doing it.
4. Dr. De Soto doesn't tell the fox the truth about the medicine he puts in his mouth. He does this because if he doesn't glue the fox's mouth shut, the fox will most likely eat Dr. Soto and his wife.
5. Answers will vary. Most people believe that medical professionals should be honest with their patients, even if they have to tell them something difficult. It's important to trust your doctor because he or she helps you to make decisions about your health.
6. Answers will vary.