

Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of gratitude and how to express it through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful"
- The song "Ollie the Grateful Owl"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1- puppets (owl, bear, rabbit, bee, beaver, squirrel)
- Activity 2- Gratitude Tree Handout
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about what it means to be grateful and ask if they can name something they are thankful for.
- Introduce the concept of gratitude and explain how it makes us feel happy and appreciate what we have.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - "Good morning, everyone! I'm so excited to see you today. Let's all come together and sit in a circle. Today, we are going to talk about something very special—*gratitude*. Has anyone heard that word before?"
 - (Allow the children to share their thoughts.)
- **Discussion Starter**
 - "Gratitude means feeling thankful for the good things in our lives. Let's think about something we are thankful for. It could be a friend, your family, your favorite toy, or even the sunshine!"

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story “Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful” aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions about what Ollie was grateful for and how it made him feel.
- Emphasize the importance of noticing and appreciating the good things around us.

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. “Today, we’ll learn about gratitude through a story about our friend Ollie the Owl. Ollie sometimes forgets to notice the good things around him, but Grandma Owl will help him understand why being grateful is so important.”
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

2. Read the story with an emphasis on key moments:

While reading, pause during key moments to ask the following questions:.

- *What does Ollie forget to notice at the beginning of the story?*
(Encourages awareness of the everyday gifts we often overlook.)
- *Who visits Ollie to help him learn about gratitude?*
(Builds comprehension of character roles.)
- *What does Grandma Owl say gratitude means?*
(Promotes understanding of key vocabulary.)
- *What are the first things Ollie is grateful for?*
(Reinforces details and positive observation.)
- *How does Ollie feel when he flaps his wings in the fresh air?*
(Connects physical experience to emotional awareness.)

- *What does Ollie say he's grateful for when he sees Benny the Bear?*
(Highlights appreciation of friendship.)
- *How does Ollie show gratitude to Betty the Beaver?*
(Focuses on recognizing and valuing others' efforts.)
- *What does Ollie say about the flowers and birds?*
(Encourages noticing beauty in nature.)
- *What is Ollie grateful for when he returns to his nest?*
(Checks for comprehension of family appreciation.)
- *How does Ollie feel at the end of the story after being thankful?*
(Connects gratitude to positive emotions like peace and joy.)

Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful

In a forest tall and grand,
Lived Ollie the Owl, so wise and grand.
With feathers so soft and eyes so bright,
He soared through the trees, day and night.

But Ollie sometimes forgot to see,
The wonderful things in the tall oak tree.
He often wished for more and more,
Not seeing the blessings at his door.

One sunny day, Grandma Owl came by,
With a twinkle of wisdom in her eye.
"Ollie dear," she softly said,
"Gratitude can fill your heart instead."

"Gratitude?" Ollie asked, tilting his head,
"What is that?" he asked with dread.
Grandma Owl smiled, wise and old,
"It's feeling thankful, it's pure gold."

Ollie wanted to learn this way,
So he listened to what Grandma had to say.
"Start by looking around you, dear,
There are so many things that bring cheer."

Ollie looked up and saw the sky,
With clouds so fluffy, way up high.
"I'm grateful for the sky so blue,
And the gentle breeze that whispers too."

He flapped his wings and felt the air,
So fresh and clean, without a care.
"I'm grateful for the wind so free,
It carries me from tree to tree."

Ollie flew down to the forest floor,
Where he saw his friend Benny the Bear
once more.
"Benny, I'm grateful for your hugs so tight,
They make me feel warm, day and night."

Next, he saw Betty, building her dam,
Working hard, without a jam.
"I'm grateful for your hard work, my friend,
Your dedication knows no end."

Ollie felt his heart grow light,
As he saw the world in a new bright light.
He saw the flowers, blooming near,
And felt a gratitude crystal clear.

"I'm grateful for the flowers that bloom,
And the sweet, gentle smell of their
perfume.
I'm grateful for the songs of birds,
Their lovely tunes, without any words."

As the sun began to set,
Ollie felt his heart's needs met.
He flew back home to his cozy nest,
Where his family waited, the very best.

"Mom, Dad, I'm grateful for you,
For all the love and the things you do.
I'm grateful for my siblings too,
For the joy they bring in all they do."

Ollie snuggled in, feeling blessed,
With a grateful heart, he felt at rest.
He closed his eyes and began to dream,
Of all the things that made his heart gleam.

Now Ollie knew the golden rule,
To be grateful, it's really cool.
He found that gratitude filled his days,
With happiness in so many ways.

So if you ever feel down or blue,
Remember Ollie and what he knew.
Look around and you will see,
So many things to be grateful for, just like
Ollie.

3. Post-Story Teacher Script

- "Ollie learns how to look around to find the good things in his life. It's important to recognize the good things that you have in life because it affects how you feel overall."

4. Post-Story Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the story and connect it to their own experiences:

- *What does it mean to be grateful? Can you explain it in your own words?
(Encourages personal definition and reflection.)*



- *Why is it important to notice the good things around us?*
(Promotes mindfulness and appreciation.)
- *How did Ollie's heart change after he started being grateful?*
(Connects feelings and mindset to behavior changes.)
- *What are three things you're grateful for right now?*
(Applies story message to personal experience.)
- *Who in your life do you feel thankful for? What do they do that makes you feel that way?*
(Encourages relational gratitude and kindness.)
- *Can you think of a time someone said "thank you" to you? How did it feel?*
(Builds empathy and emotional memory.)
- *What could you say or do to show someone you're grateful for them?*
(Promotes actionable kindness and expression.)
- *How can we remember to be grateful, even on hard days?*
(Supports emotional resilience and positive thinking.)
- *What did you like most about Ollie's gratitude journey?*
(Invites personal connection and story engagement.)
- *What's one way we can practice being grateful every day at school?*
(Encourages daily habits that support emotional well-being.)

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the “Ollie the Grateful Owl” song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

"Now we are going to sing a song about being grateful—just like Ollie! I'll show you some fun actions we can do while we sing."

“Ollie the Owl the Grateful Owl”

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the owl wakes up feels the sun
Flies from his tree ready for fun
With a hoot and a flap he starts his day
Sees his friends and he loves to play

Stretch and yawn

Flap arms

[Verse 2]

Grateful Ollie says thank you do
For the sky so wide and the flowers too
Butterflies dance and the breeze so light
Ollie’s heart feels oh so bright

Place hands on heart

[Chorus]

Thank you sun thank you tree
With your love I'm so happy
Grateful heart a joyful tune
Every day from June to June

Place hands on heart

[Verse 3]

Ollie the owl loves to sing
Feeling grateful for everything
Stars that twinkle clouds that float
Telling stories from his little throat

Cup hand around mouth

[Bridge]

Gratitude makes Ollie smile
Feeling warm all the while
Sharing love with every friend
Grateful joy that never ends

Hug arms around self

[Verse 4]

Ollie the owl learns each day
That feeling grateful lights the way
For every laugh every cheer
Grateful hearts have no fear

Place hands on heart

"Great job, everyone! Singing about gratitude is such a fun way to remind ourselves to appreciate all the good things around us."

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice greeting others.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:

Activity 1: Animal Role-Play (15 minutes)



1. Introduce Activity

"Next, we're going to use puppets to practice saying thank you and showing gratitude—just like Ollie did in the story. I have Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, and Betty the Beaver here with me."

Activity Instructions

For each role-play scenario, choose 2 students to come up and pretend to be one of the characters. Let the students act out one of the scenarios and how they would solve the problem.

1. **Explain the Role-Playing:**

"Each puppet will act out a situation, and we'll practice how to express gratitude. I'll start by showing you an example."

2. **Model the First Scenario:**

"Let's say Ollie is feeling sad, and Benny gives him a big hug. What can Ollie say to show he is grateful?"

(Pause for responses.)

"That's right! Ollie can say, 'Thank you, Benny, for your hug. It made me feel better.'"

3. **Encourage Participation:**

"Now it's your turn! Who would like to act out a scene with the puppets?"

(Allow children to take turns role-playing.) (Let a few children take turns role-playing some of the following scenarios.)

○ Scenarios:

i. **Ollie Thanks Benny for Helping**

Scenario: Benny the Bear helps Ollie reach a high branch to get his favorite leaf.

ii. **Harriet Shares Her Snack**

Scenario: Harriet the Hare sees Ollie forgot his snack and shares hers.

iii. **Buzz the Bee Sings a Song**

Scenario: Buzz sings a cheerful song that makes Ollie and Betty smile.

iv. **Betty Builds a Dam for the Group**

Scenario: Betty the Beaver finishes a small dam to create a play area for everyone.

v. **Ollie Notices the Beautiful Sky**

Scenario: The friends are walking through the forest and Ollie looks up.

vi. **A Classmate Picks Up a Dropped Toy**

Scenario: A student drops a toy, and another friend picks it up for them.

vii. **Ollie Gets a Compliment from Harriet**

Scenario: Harriet says, "Ollie, I love your hoot!"

viii. **Buzz Finds a Flower for the Group**

Scenario: Buzz finds a pretty flower and shares it with his friends.

ix. **Benny Helps Someone Up**

Scenario: A friend trips during a game, and Benny helps them up.

Role-Play: Ollie says, "Thank you, Benny! You're strong and helpful!"

x. **Ollie Thanks His Family**

Scenario: Ollie returns home and thanks his parents for taking care of him.

4. **Discussion:**

"You all did an amazing job! Remember, saying thank you makes people feel appreciated and shows that we notice the kind things they do."

Activity 2: Gratitude Trees (15 minutes)



- **Introduce Activity**

"Now we're going to make something very special—our own Gratitude Trees! These trees will help us think about all the things we are thankful for."

- **Activity Instructions**

Instructions for Craft Activity

1. **Distribute materials:** Give each child the Gratitude Tree handout, crayons, markers, to decorate the tree. Have the students cut out the leaves and write or draw things they are grateful for on the leaves and glue the leaves onto the tree.
2. **Explain:**
 - a. "On each leaf, I want you to draw or write something you are grateful for. It could be a friend, a family member, or something you love, like a favorite toy or a sunny day."
3. **Encourage creativity:**
 - a. "Decorate your Gratitude Tree however you like! You can use markers, or crayons. Let's take our time and think carefully about what makes us feel thankful."
 - b. "While we're working on our Gratitude Trees, let's talk about how it feels to say thank you. How does it make you feel when someone thanks you for something kind you've done?"
4. **Share:** After the children finish, invite a few to share what they wrote or drew on their trees.

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about gratitude and what they are thankful for.
- Ask a few children to share their "Gratitude Trees" and explain what they put on their leaves and why.

Review and Reflection Teacher Script

1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:



"Let's come back to the circle and share our Gratitude Trees. Who would like to show us their tree and tell us what they are thankful for?"

(Allow a few children to share.)

"These trees are all so beautiful! I'm so proud of how well you all thought about what makes you feel grateful. Remember, we can always find something to be thankful for, even on tough days."

Closing Question:

"How do you think you can show gratitude to someone today?"

(Encourage responses.)

"That's wonderful! Showing gratitude makes others feel happy, and it makes us feel good too."

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- "Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home. It talks about what we learned today, so you can share it with your family."

(Hand out the parent letters.)

"Thank you for being such wonderful listeners and friends today! I can't wait to see you all next time."

- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, we learned about gratitude through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Be Grateful." This story teaches children the importance of noticing and appreciating the good things around them and expressing their thanks.

Here's what we learned:

- Gratitude – Understanding and appreciating the good things in our lives.
- Expressing Thanks – Recognizing what we are grateful for and sharing our appreciation with others.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making "Gratitude Trees." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about what they are thankful for and how it makes them feel.

Thank you for your support!

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Sincerely,



Gratitude Tree



