



St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre
Lesson Plan
Exploring and Writing Nature Parables



Target Station(s):	This lesson takes place between Stations 5 and 6 at the foot of the rock cliff. The entire trail is 2.5 km long. This station is located approximately one third of the way through.
Total Length of Time Required:	Time dedicated to hiking / walking = 30 minutes Time dedicated to complete the activity = 90 minutes
Target Grade(s):	Grade 4
Target Subject(s):	Religious Studies, Language
Overall Curriculum Expectation(s):	<p>Grade 4 Religious Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BL2 – Demonstrate an understanding of “the resurrection of the Body and life everlasting” professed in the Apostle’s Creed and revealed by Christ Jesus • CL2 – Understand that the celebration of the Eucharist allows us to receive gifts from God (grace) to transform our lives (fruits). [CCC nos. 1391-1405] <p>Grade 4 Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 - Listen in order to understand and respond appropriately in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes • B1 – Read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of literary, graphic, and informational texts, using a range of strategies to construct meaning • C1 – Generate, gather, and organize ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience • C2 – Draft and revise their writing, using a variety of informational, literary, and graphic forms and stylistic elements appropriate for the purpose and audience • C3 – Use editing, proofreading, and publishing skills and strategies, and knowledge of language conventions, to correct errors, refine expression, and present their work effectively
Specific Curriculum Expectation(s):	<p>Grade 4 Religious Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BL2.1 – Examine a selection of scripture passages to unfold the promise of eternal life (John 11:25, 26; John 10:27, 28; John 6:27; John 5:24; John 3:16; Romans 6:23) and the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven (parables - Matt. 13; 18:23-35; 22:2-14; 25:1-13) • CL2.3 – Identify certain gifts coming from God which, when we experience them in our lives, transform us and those who are in relationship with us (wonders of nature, the beauty of the arts, the laughter of a baby, the love of a parent or guardian). <p>Grade 4 Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1.2 – Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate listening behaviour by adapting active listening strategies to suit a variety of situations, including work in groups • A1.4 – Demonstrate an understanding of the information and ideas in a variety of

	<p>oral texts by summarizing important ideas and citing important details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1.5 - Make inferences about texts using stated and implied ideas from the texts as evidence • B1.6 – Extend understanding of texts by connecting the ideas in them to their own knowledge, experience, and insights, to other familiar texts, and to the world around them • B1.7 – Analyse texts and explain how specific elements in them contribute to meaning • B1.8 – Express opinions about the ideas and information in texts and cite evidence from the text to support their opinions • C1.1 – Identify the topic, purpose, and audience for a variety of writing forms • C1.2 – Generate ideas about a potential topic using a variety of strategies and resources • C2.4 – Use sentences of different lengths and structures • C3.1 – Spell familiar words correctly • C3.2 – Spell unfamiliar words using a variety of strategies that involve understanding sound-symbol relationships, word structures, word meanings, and generalizations about spelling • C3.4 – Use punctuation appropriately to help communicate their intended meaning, with a focus on the use of: the apostrophe to indicate possession, and quotation marks to indicate direct speech • C3.5 – Use parts of speech appropriately to communicate their meaning clearly, with a focus on the use of: common and proper nouns; verbs in the simple present, past, and future tenses; adjectives and adverbs; subject/verb agreement; prepositions; and conjunctions
Catholic Graduate Expectation(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGE1c – actively reflects on God’s Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures • CGE1i – integrates faith with life • CGE2a – listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values
Connection to FNMI Perspectives and/or Teachings:	The lesson begins with an Ojibwa prayer that connects with experiencing nature.
Learning Goals:	<p>We are learning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret the message from parables. • Compose a parable using an item or element from nature as the subject.
Prerequisite Knowledge and/or Skills:	Familiarity with parables is an asset but not a requirement.
Required Materials:	<p>The tote will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ojibwa Prayer (handout or laminated on cardstock) • The Parable of the Sower (handout or laminated copy on cardstock) • Looking at Other Parables (handout or laminated copy on cardstock) • An Introduction to Parables (handout) • Writing a Parable (handout) • One copy of <i>The Catholic Children’s Bible</i> • Clipboards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils/Pens
Activity and Approximate Times:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hike to the base of cliff between Stations 5 and 6. 2. Begin with Ojibwa Prayer (handout). 3. Students spend approximately 5 minutes in silence looking around at God’s creation that surrounds them. Allow them to explore the general area before gathering around the teacher. 4. The teacher or a student reads <i>The Parable of the Sower</i> (handout). 5. Review parables using “An Introduction to Parables” (handout). This can be a teacher-led discussion. 6. At the teacher’s discretion, students can work individually or in small groups to compose their own parables. Each student/group will need a copy of the handout “Writing a Parable.” All work will take place on the handout. Copies of additional parables (Looking at Other Parables – handout) are also available so that students can examine more examples if needed. 7. Invite students to share their parables with the class. <p>Note: Students who finish early can complete the activity sheets in the bin (Sower and the Seed Anagram, Sower and the Seed Crossword, Sower and the Seed Word Search).</p>
Suggested Modifications or Extensions:	<p>Although this lesson is modelled using Grade 4 curriculum expectations, it can be modified for a variety of grade levels.</p> <p>Extensions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have students write an explanation of their parable, as modeled with the Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Weeds. 2. Upon returning to school, students can complete a good copy of their parable and all of the class parables can be compiled into a class publication. 3. Students can read parables to students in other grades.
Assessment:	The teacher can assess parables using criteria that are familiar to the class.
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