

**Lesson Plan for:**                    **Why Evergreen Trees Keep Their Leaves**

**Type of story:**                    Literary Example of How and Why Story

**Objectives:**

- The students will hear and learn the names of six types of trees.
- The students will learn how evergreen trees keep their leaves in the winter while deciduous trees drop their leaves.
- The students will practice using the pronouns I and me and learn how “I” is a subject and “me” is an object.
- The students will compare the characteristics of the trees with the characteristic of people.

- Procedure:**
1. Tell the story of “Why Evergreen Trees Keep Their Leaves” to the students. Encourage them to show their emotions as the story is told. Tell them that it is okay to frown or look angry when trees act mean towards the little bird. It is also fine to look happy when the evergreen trees help the little bird. Active participation during listening improves the amount of comprehension the listeners will have about the content of the story and the language that was used to tell it.
  2. Check the students’ comprehension of the story by asking questions about it. Re-tell the story, or have the students read the story a second time.
  3. Encourage the students to say, then write down the names of the six types of trees in the story. Look up the trees in the dictionary, encyclopedia, on the Internet or in another source. Discuss the characteristics of the trees. Talk about why three of the trees are called “evergreen” trees – the real reason and the reason given in this story.
  4. Talk about the pronouns I and me. The pronoun “I” is used when the character is the subject like “I need a place to stay. I am tired food. Can I sit on your branch?” “Me” is used as an object pronoun like “Please help me. You are \ nice to me. Give it to me. Thank you for helping me.”
  4. Have the students practice using “I” and “me” in oral sentences.
  5. Discuss how the trees in the story do some of the same things that people do in real life. Introduce the word metaphor. Most young learners will not fully understand the concept of using metaphors in stories, but some of the more gifted students will benefit by having the concept introduced.

**Social Studies Extensions** – Look up forest regions. Talk about where trees lose their leaves during the winter, and where trees grow all year round without losing their leaves.

**Science Extension** – Do leaf rubbings of different types of trees. Compare the leaves. Draw a diagram of a leaf, and label the different parts. Read and talk about different types of trees.

**Language Arts/Reading Extension** – Use creative dramatics and act out the story. Take turns having students read or tell the story while others act the story out.

**Art Extension** – Create a picture out of felt or fabric that shows a scene from the story.