

The Devoted Friend: Classroom Activities

Video Source: Animated short story based on the fairy tale by Oscar Wilde.

A. BEFORE WATCHING

1. Vocabulary Match-Up. *Match the words with their definitions.*

Word/Phrase	Definition
1. devoted (adj)	a) to make something work again; to fix
2. to fetch (v)	b) a two-wheeled cart for carrying heavy loads
3. flaw (n)	c) very loyal and loving
4. to repair (v)	d) to go for and bring back someone or something
5. wheelbarrow (n)	e) a fault or weakness in someone's character
6. to take for granted (phr.v)	f) to not appreciate someone or something because you think they will always be there

2. Discussion & Prediction. *Discuss these questions with a partner.*

- What qualities do you think a "**devoted friend**" should have?
- Look at the title and the vocabulary. What do you think this story will be about?
- The story is a fairy tale. Do you think it will have a happy ending? Why or why not?

B. WHILE WATCHING

1. True or False? *Watch the story and decide if these statements are True (T) or False (F).*

1. Hans had a beautiful garden full of flowers and herbs. **T / F**
2. The Miller often paid Hans for the flowers he took. **T / F**
3. The Miller invited Hans to stay with his family during the winter. **T / F**
4. Hans sold his wheelbarrow in the winter to buy food. **T / F**
5. The Miller gave Hans a brand new wheelbarrow. **T / F**
6. Hans had to do many tasks for the Miller, like repairing the roof and selling flour. **T / F**
7. On the stormy night, the Miller gave Hans his lantern to help him see. **T / F**
8. In the end, Hans realizes the Miller is a true friend. **T / F**

2. Put the Events in Order. *Number the events from 1 (what happened first) to 8 (what happened last).*

- ... a) The Miller asked Hans to give him his plank of wood.
- ... b) The Miller's son fell off a ladder and got hurt.
- ... c) Hans spent the whole day repairing the Miller's barn roof.
- ... d) Hans and the Miller talked about friendship in the beautiful garden.

- ... e) Hans fell into a ditch while fetching the doctor.
 - ... f) The Miller gave a speech at what he thought was Hans's funeral.
 - ... g) Hans refused to repair the Miller's windmill.
 - ... h) The Miller explained why he didn't help Hans in the winter.
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C. AFTER WATCHING

1. Vocabulary in Context. *Complete the sentences with words from the "Before Watching" exercise.*

1. A true friend is not selfish; they are _____ and caring.
2. I need to _____ this broken chair before someone sits on it.
3. He didn't appreciate her until she was gone; he really _____ her.
4. The farmer used a _____ to carry the heavy vegetables.
5. One of his biggest _____ is that he is always late.
6. Can you _____ me a glass of water from the kitchen?

2. Character Analysis: The Miller. *Read the quotes from the Miller. What do they really mean? Discuss.*

What the Miller Says	What He Really Means
1. "Among best friends, everything is common."	a) "I want to use your things for free, but I won't share mine."
2. "I will not let my best friend feel envy."	b) "I don't want to do this dangerous task, so you should do it for me."
3. "It is only fair that you should do this for me in return for the wheelbarrow."	c) "I don't want to share my food and warmth with you."

3. Discussion & Reflection. *In small groups, discuss these questions.*

1. Why do you think Hans continued to help the Miller for so long?
 2. What was the "turning point" (the most important moment) when Hans realized the truth about his "friend"?
 3. The farmer tells Hans: "Friendship is a relationship of mutual love and respect, not that of a master and a slave." Do you agree with this? Explain.
 4. Have you ever known a person like the Miller? Or have you ever felt like Hans?
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