

## **Lesson Plan for Grades 2-4: "Feeding Spirit" (Traditional Assiniboine Story)**

### **Objective:**

Students will learn about the Assiniboine culture, traditions, and values through the story of "Feeding Spirit." They will explore the importance of respect, sharing, spirituality, and connection to ancestors.

### **Materials Needed:**

- A printed or digital copy of "Feeding Spirit" story
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paper)
- A globe or map to show the location of the Assiniboine people

### **Lesson Duration:**

1 hour

### **Lesson Outline:**

#### **1. Introduction (10 minutes):**

- Begin with a brief discussion of Native American cultures, focusing on the Assiniboine people. Use a map to show the geographical location of their traditional lands near the Little Rocky Mountains and Cypress Hills.
- Explain that today's lesson is based on an important Assiniboine story passed down through generations. Ask the students to think about why stories are important in different cultures (to teach lessons, share history, etc.).

#### **2. Story Reading (15-20 minutes):**

- Read the story "Feeding Spirit" aloud to the class. Emphasize the themes of family, respect for elders, spirituality, and sharing.
- Pause occasionally to ask comprehension questions:
  - *Who is Chaskay?*
  - *Why does Chaskay share his food with the mysterious visitor?*
  - *What message does the old woman give to the people?*

#### **3. Discussion (10 minutes):**

- Lead a discussion about the story's key lessons:
  - *Why is it important to feed the spirit?*
  - *What does sharing food symbolize in the story? (Respect, love, connection to others and ancestors)*
  - *How does Chaskay show respect for his family and ancestors?*
- Ask students how they show respect in their own lives.

#### **4. Art Activity – Spirit Plate (15 minutes):**

- Have students draw a "Spirit Plate" to symbolize sharing with others. Instruct them to divide a plate into different sections, drawing or listing foods they would like to share with their family, friends, or ancestors.
- Encourage them to use bright colors and decorate the plates with symbols that are meaningful to them.

**5. Reflection (5 minutes):**

- Ask students to write a sentence or two about what they learned from the story. They can share their reflections if they wish.

**Wrap-Up:**

Conclude the lesson by reminding students of the importance of respect, sharing, and spiritual connections. Highlight how these values are still present in many cultures today.

**Assessment:**

- Participation in discussion
- Completion of the Spirit Plate drawing
- Reflection writing