

Lesson Plan

Imperatives and Instructions

Book: *Making a Bridge for the Gingerbread Man*

Series: Fairy Tale Science

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice forming simple sentences that use imperative verbs.

Supplies

- *Making a Bridge for the Gingerbread Man* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Making a Bridge for the Gingerbread Man*, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Chapter 1 (“The Gingerbread Man”) retells a famous fairy tale. In this story, the gingerbread man runs very fast. A woman, a man, a cow, a pig, a horse, and a goat all try to catch him. But none of them succeed. In some versions of this story, the gingerbread man says the same three sentences to each one of them: “Run, run as fast as you can! You can’t catch me. I’m the gingerbread man.”

Explain that every sentence has a verb (an action) and a subject (something doing the action). Write a version of the gingerbread man’s sentences on the whiteboard:

- Run as fast as you can. I run even faster.

Underline the word *run* in each sentence, explaining that this word is the verb. In the second sentence, the subject (*I*) comes before the verb (*run*). But the subject in the first sentence is missing! Instead, this sentence starts with the verb *run*. That’s because this sentence is an imperative. An imperative sentence gives a command. It tells someone what to do or not do.

To see more examples of imperative sentences, open the book to pages 12 and 13. These pages show four steps of instructions for building a bridge. Each sentence starts with a verb, such as *build* or *measure*. The sentences on pages 14 and 15 are similar. They use the verbs *place*, *add*, and *repeat* to tell readers what to do.

Have students practice using imperative verbs by writing their own sets of instructions. Students should think of a skill or task they know how to do. They should write a paragraph that tells the rest of the class how to do it. The paragraph should have six sentences. Each sentence should start with an imperative verb.

Evaluation

Collect the paragraphs at the end of the activity. Give students 1 point for each sentence that begins with an imperative verb, for up to 6 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grade 3 (L 3.1).