LESSON PLAN

A Creaking Tail

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what strength means to students. Ask them to share examples of people they consider strong and why.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "A Creaking Tail" as a class. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot and identify key themes and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will discuss the motivations of the American Statesman and the British Lion, focusing on how each character displays or conceals their true feelings. Groups will then present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will individually write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they had to endure discomfort without showing weakness. Encourage them to connect this experience to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and assess students based on their understanding of the moral, their ability to connect personal experiences to the story, and their participation in discussions.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: A Creaking Tail; True strength and resilience often lie in the ability to endure discomfort without revealing weakness.
- **Plot Summary**: In this clever tale, an American Statesman believes he has successfully tested the limits of the British Lion's endurance by twisting its tail. However, instead of showing pain, the Lion reveals that the creaking sound is merely a result of needing some oil, showcasing true resilience and composure in the face of adversity.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **American Statesman**: Represents those who seek to exert power over others, often misunderstanding true strength.
  - **British Lion**: Embodies resilience and the ability to endure discomfort without showing weakness, serving as a reminder that true strength is not always visible.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to personal resilience.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their actions to identify themes of strength and endurance.
  - Students will engage in discussions to connect the story to their own experiences with discomfort and perseverance.
  - Students will explore the significance of folklore and moral stories in conveying life lessons.
  - Students will summarize the story and articulate its moral in their own words.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What does the British Lion symbolize in the context of enduring discomfort?
  - How does the American Statesman's perception of power change throughout the story?
  - Can you think of a personal experience where you had to show resilience? How did it feel?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "A Creaking Tail"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking and reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.