LESSON PLAN

A Saying of Socrates

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
5–8	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of friendship in our lives. Ask students to think of their closest friend and what makes that relationship special.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "A Saying Of Socrates" aloud. After reading, discuss the characters and their significance. Explore students' initial reactions to the story and its implications about friendship.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Have each group identify examples from the story that illustrate the difference between true friendship and surface-level relationships. Encourage them to consider how this applies to their own lives.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students individually write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they realized the value of true friendship. Prompt them to think about how they can cultivate deeper relationships in their own lives.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect written reflections and provide feedback based on clarity of thought and depth of insight regarding the moral of the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: A Saying Of Socrates; True friendship is rare and cannot be measured by the quantity of acquaintances one has.
- **Plot Summary**: In this engaging moral tale, Socrates faces criticism as he builds a house. While many offer their opinions about the house's design, Socrates reflects on the superficiality of these so-called friendships, realizing that true friends are rare and invaluable. The story highlights the contrast between quantity and quality in relationships.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Socrates**: The wise philosopher who understands the value of true friendship.
  - **Critics**: Various acquaintances who represent the superficiality of many relationships and the tendency to judge based on appearances.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and articulate its significance.
  - Students will analyze Socrates' perspective on friendship and acquaintanceship.
  - Students will discuss the difference between true friends and casual acquaintances.
  - Students will reflect on their own friendships and evaluate their quality.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think Socrates meant by saying that true friendship is rare?
  2. How can we differentiate between a true friend and a casual acquaintance?
  3. Why do you think people often judge others based on appearances?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "A Saying Of Socrates"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for reflection exercises