LESSON PLAN

An Optimist

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about optimism and ask students if they know what it means. Share a relatable anecdote about a challenging situation that turned out well due to a positive outlook.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "An Optimist" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in pairs and share their summaries with the class.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign them to analyze the characters. Each group will identify the traits of the first and second frogs and discuss how these traits influence their actions and attitudes.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Invite students to reflect individually on a personal experience where their outlook made a difference. Provide time for them to write down their thoughts and, if comfortable, share with the class.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick formative assessment by asking students to write down one key takeaway from the lesson and how they plan to apply it in their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: An Optimist; **Moral**: Adaptability and a positive outlook can help us find silver linings even in challenging situations.
- **Plot Summary**: The story revolves around two frogs who find themselves trapped in the belly of a snake. While one frog laments their unfortunate situation, the other frog encourages a more positive perspective, suggesting they make the best out of their predicament. This tale teaches the value of optimism and adaptability in the face of adversity.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **First Frog**: Represents a pessimistic outlook, highlighting the tendency to focus on the negative aspects of a situation.
  - **Second Frog**: Embodies optimism and adaptability, showcasing how a positive mindset can lead to resilience.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its application in real life.
  - Students will analyze the characters' perspectives and their impact on the story's outcome.
  - Students will discuss the importance of adaptability in difficult situations.
  - Students will identify the story's themes and relate them to personal experiences.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What were the different perspectives of the two frogs, and how did they affect their situation?
  2. Can you think of a time when being optimistic helped you overcome a challenge?
  3. How can we apply the moral of this story in our daily lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "An Optimist"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for notes and reflections