LESSON PLAN

Belling the Cat

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of effective solutions in our lives. Ask students to share examples of problems they have faced and the solutions they proposed.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "Belling the Cat" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words to gauge comprehension.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character from the story. Ask them to discuss the significance of their character and how they contribute to the moral. Each group will present their findings.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Facilitate a class discussion on the implications of the story's moral in real-life situations. Encourage students to share personal experiences related to problem-solving and the challenges involved.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write down one takeaway from the lesson and how they might apply it in their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: "Belling the Cat" - The moral of the story is that proposing solutions is easy, but implementing them can be difficult or impossible.
- **Plot summary**: In a council of mice, a young mouse proposes a clever plan to attach a bell to the Cat to warn them of her approach. Although the idea is celebrated, an old mouse points out the impracticality of the solution, leading to a realization about the challenges of implementing ideas.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Young Mouse**: Represents innovation and the ability to think outside the box but lacks the experience to foresee the challenges.
  - **Old Mouse**: Embodies wisdom and practical thinking, highlighting the importance of considering the feasibility of ideas.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the central moral of "Belling the Cat" and its implications in real-life scenarios.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their roles in the story.
  - Students will engage in discussions about the importance of practical solutions in problem-solving.
  - Students will reflect on how this story relates to moral-based storytelling for adults.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of problem-solving?
  2. Can you think of a time when a proposed solution was easy to suggest but difficult to implement?
  3. How can we apply the moral of this story to modern-day challenges we face?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "Belling the Cat"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Projector for presenting supplementary materials