LESSON PLAN

Hercules and Pallas

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
3–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on conflict. Ask students if they have ever faced a situation that seemed to grow worse the more they tried to fix it. Share personal anecdotes to engage students.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story *Hercules and Pallas* aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to ask questions about Hercules's feelings and actions. What do they think about Pallas's intervention?

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, students will analyze the story's characters and their decisions. Each group will answer guided questions about the consequences of Hercules's actions and Pallas's advice.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a brief reflection on a time they faced a conflict. Encourage them to think about how they handled it and whether stepping back could have helped.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and group analyses. Use a rubric to evaluate understanding of the story's themes and the students' ability to connect personal experiences to the moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: Hercules and Pallas - Moral: The more you engage in conflict and struggle with strife, the larger and more overwhelming it becomes; sometimes, the best approach is to step back and let it diminish on its own.
- **Plot Summary**: In this tale, Hercules encounters a strange beast that threatens him. Initially, he reacts with aggression, striking the creature with his club. However, his actions only cause the monster, named Strife, to grow larger and more fearsome. Pallas advises Hercules to stop fighting and let Strife diminish on its own, illustrating the futility of conflict.
- **Key Characters**:
  - Hercules: The brave hero who initially responds to threats with violence.
  - Pallas: The wise goddess who advises Hercules, symbolizing reason and insight.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the themes and moral lessons presented in the story.
  - Students will analyze character actions and their consequences.
  - Students will discuss the concept of conflict resolution in personal and social contexts.
  - Students will reflect on alternative approaches to conflict, inspired by the story.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the monster Strife symbolize in our lives?
  2. How might Hercules's approach to the situation have changed if he had listened to Pallas sooner?
  3. Can you think of a time when stepping back from a conflict helped resolve the situation?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story Hercules and Pallas
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing materials for students