LESSON PLAN

Jupiter and the Birds

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	45 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a question: "What do you think makes someone a leader?" Allow students to share their thoughts, leading into the story's theme about leadership and appearances.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "Jupiter and the Birds" aloud. Pause at key moments to discuss students' reactions and predictions about the outcome.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to identify the main characters and their traits.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph about a time when they learned that appearances can be deceiving. Encourage them to relate it to their own experiences or other famous moral stories.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: Jupiter and the Birds; **Moral**: The moral of the story is that appearances can be deceiving, and true worth is often found in cleverness rather than beauty.
- **Plot Summary**: In this tale, Jupiter, the king of the gods, summons all the birds to choose the most beautiful among them as their ruler. An ugly jackdaw cleverly gathers the discarded feathers of other birds to create a stunning appearance. However, when the other birds recognize their own feathers, they strip him of them, but Jupiter acknowledges the jackdaw's cleverness and declares him king.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Jupiter**: Represents authority and wisdom, emphasizing the importance of intelligence over mere appearance.
  - **Jackdaw**: Embodies cleverness and resourcefulness, highlighting the theme that true worth is determined by actions rather than looks.
  - **Other Birds**: Illustrate the folly of valuing beauty over substance, serving as a contrast to the jackdaw.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.

- Students will identify the key characters and their roles.
- Students will analyze the theme of appearances versus reality.
- Students will discuss the significance of cleverness in decision-making.
- Students will compare this story to other educational moral stories.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. Why do you think the other birds were so quick to judge the jackdaw based on appearance?
  2. How does the story challenge our perceptions of beauty and worth?
  3. What can we learn from the jackdaw's actions in our own lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "Jupiter and the Birds"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students
  - Visual aids (optional)

✓ Original text available on the story page.