LESSON PLAN

Jupiter and the Sharecropper

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
4–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about a time when students tried to control a situation but faced unexpected outcomes. What did they learn from the experience?

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "Jupiter and the Sharecropper" aloud. Pause at key moments to encourage predictions and thoughts about the characters' decisions and the unfolding events.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to discuss the sharecropper's choices and Jupiter's role. Have them list the sharecropper's misconceptions and how they led to failure.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short reflection on a personal experience where they learned to accept things beyond their control. Encourage them to connect it back to the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Have students share their reflections and discuss how the moral of the story can apply to their own lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: Jupiter and the Sharecropper; The moral of the story is that one should recognize and accept that higher powers, like Providence, often have a better understanding of what is truly beneficial than we do ourselves.
- **Plot Summary**: This timeless moral story follows a sharecropper who, in his ambition, overestimates his abilities and attempts to control the weather to ensure a successful harvest. Despite his efforts, he fails while his neighbors prosper, ultimately leading him to realize the importance of yielding to higher powers.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Jupiter**: The god who represents higher wisdom and Providence.
  - **The Sharecropper**: The ambitious man whose desire for control leads to his downfall, illustrating the folly of overestimating one's abilities.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the key moral themes in "Jupiter and the Sharecropper."
  - Students will analyze the characters and their motivations within the story.
  - Students will discuss the implications of trying to control uncontrollable elements in life.
  - Students will relate the story to real-life situations that exemplify the moral.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the sharecropper could have done differently?
  2. How does this story reflect real-life situations where we try to control outcomes?
  3. In what ways can we accept that some things are beyond our control?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "Jupiter and the Sharecropper"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Journals for reflection