LESSON PLAN

Mercury and the Woodchopper

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about a time when students acted quickly and faced unexpected results. Encourage sharing of personal anecdotes.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. Ask students to follow along and highlight key phrases that illustrate the theme of haste and thoughtlessness.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Break students into small groups to discuss the characters' motivations and actions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph reflecting on a situation in their life where they acted hastily and what they learned from that experience.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick class poll to gauge understanding of the moral. Ask students to rate how well they think they apply the moral to their own lives on a scale from 1-5.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: Mercury and the Woodchopper; Haste and thoughtlessness can lead to unforeseen consequences.
- **Plot Summary**: A woodchopper loses his axe in a deep pool and asks Mercury to retrieve it. In his haste, Mercury dives into the pool, causing the surrounding trees to loosen and fall. The story illustrates the consequences of acting without thinking.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Woodchopper**: Represents individuals who seek help but may not consider the broader implications of their requests.
  - **Mercury**: The deity of speed who embodies the moral that acting hastily can lead to unintended consequences.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

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

- Students will identify the actions of the characters and their consequences.
- Students will analyze the impact of haste and thoughtlessness in decision-making.
- Students will relate the story's themes to their personal experiences and growth.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think would have happened if Mercury had taken more time to think before diving into the pool?
  2. How can we apply the moral of this story to our daily lives and decision-making processes?
  3. Can you think of a personal experience where acting hastily led to an unforeseen consequence?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "Mercury and the Woodchopper"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Sticky notes for reflections