LESSON PLAN

Mercury and the Workmen

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of honesty in our lives. Ask students if they have ever faced a situation where they had to choose between telling the truth and lying.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "Mercury and the Workmen" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the key events.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and provide them with discussion prompts related to the characters and moral of the story. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they faced a similar moral dilemma. What did they choose, and what were the consequences?

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect students' written reflections and evaluate them based on clarity, connection to the story's moral, and personal insight.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: Mercury and the Workmen; **Moral**: Honesty is rewarded, while greed and deceit lead to loss.
- **Plot Summary**: A hardworking man accidentally drops his axe into a river and laments his loss. Mercury, the messenger of the gods, appears and offers to help him, bringing up a golden and a silver axe before returning his own. A greedy workman tries to replicate his friend's luck, but his dishonesty leads to his misfortune.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Workman**: Represents honesty and virtue; rewarded for his integrity.
  - **Mercury**: Symbolizes divine justice; rewards honesty and punishes greed.
  - **The Greedy Workman**: Represents the consequences of deceit and greed.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of honesty and integrity in daily life.
  - Students will analyze the consequences of greed and deceit.
  - Students will explore how characters in stories represent moral lessons.
  - Students will discuss the impact of moral stories on personal growth.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think motivated the honest workman to tell the truth?
  2. How did the actions of the greedy workman lead to his downfall?
  3. What can we learn from the story about how honesty affects our relationships with others?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "Mercury and the Workmen"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.