LESSON PLAN

The Alderman and the Raccoon

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on common judgments people make about others. Ask students to share examples of situations where they felt judged or judged someone else.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Alderman and the Raccoon" aloud to the class. Ask students to pay attention to the characters and their interactions. After reading, discuss initial impressions of both characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Each group will answer the following:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students reflect individually on a time they judged someone or felt judged. Ask them to write a short paragraph about the experience and its impact on their understanding of the moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflection paragraphs to assess understanding of the moral and ability to apply it to personal experiences.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Alderman and the Raccoon; "One should be wary of making judgments about others, as they may reveal uncomfortable truths about oneself."
- **Plot Summary**: In a zoological garden, an Alderman comments on the Raccoon's tail, noting the many rings it has. The Raccoon cleverly retorts, pointing out that the Alderman himself has many tales, hinting at his own flaws. The Alderman, feeling uncomfortable with this reflection, decides to leave the conversation.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Alderman**: Represents authority and judgment but is also sensitive to criticism.
  - **The Raccoon**: Embodies cleverness and the ability to reflect back the judgments of others.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson about judgment and self-reflection.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their significance in the story.
  - Students will explore the idea of moral-based storytelling in culturally significant narratives.
  - Students will discuss how small stories can convey profound messages.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Raccoon’s response to the Alderman tell us about self-awareness?
  2. How does the story illustrate the theme of judgment and its consequences?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our everyday interactions?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Alderman and the Raccoon"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students