LESSON PLAN

The Ass and His Shadow

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on what constitutes "minor" and "major" issues in life. Ask students to share examples of conflicts they've seen or experienced.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Ass and His Shadow" aloud to the class. Engage students by asking them to visualize the scenes and characters as the story unfolds.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters and their motivations. Each group will identify the main conflict and propose alternative resolutions that could have avoided the loss of the ass.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience related to the moral of the story, focusing on what they learned from it.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Quick class poll: Ask students to rate their understanding of the moral on a scale from 1-5. Collect feedback on whether they found the story relatable.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Ass and His Shadow; In our disputes over minor matters, we may overlook and lose what truly matters.
- **Plot Summary**: A traveler hires an ass to journey to a distant place. Seeking shelter from the intense heat, he and the ass's owner argue over who has the right to the ass's shadow. Their quarrel escalates, leading to the loss of the ass itself, illustrating the futility of fighting over trivial matters.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Traveler**: Represents those who focus on immediate comfort and convenience.
  - **The Owner of the Ass**: Embodies the insistence on rights and ownership, highlighting how attachment to trivial matters can lead to loss.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of prioritizing significant issues over minor disputes.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions in the story.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences where they may have quarreled over trivial matters.
  - Students will engage in discussions about the broader implications of the story's moral in everyday life.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the ass symbolizes in this story?
  2. How could the traveler and the owner have resolved their disagreement without losing the ass?
  3. Can you think of a time when you lost something important because of a minor dispute? What did you learn from that experience?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Ass and His Shadow" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for reflection exercises

✓ Original text available on the story page.