LESSON PLAN

The Ass and the Charger

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what makes a story memorable. Ask students to share their favorite moral stories and what they learned from them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Ass and the Charger" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words and identify the main characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character (the Ass or the Charger).

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they misjudged someone based on appearances. How did their perception change over time?

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Have students share their reflections in pairs and provide feedback to each other. Collect the paragraphs to assess understanding of the moral lesson.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Ass and the Charger; Moral: Appearances can be deceiving; what seems enviable may come with hidden burdens and dangers.
- **Plot Summary**: In this unique moral story, an Ass envies the life of a Charger, who seems well-fed and cared for. However, when war breaks out, the Charger faces grave dangers that lead to his demise, causing the Ass to reflect on the true cost of appearances.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Ass**: Represents the common worker who struggles for survival but is ultimately wiser than he appears.
  - **The Charger**: Symbolizes those who seem privileged but carry burdens that can lead to their downfall.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.
- Students will be able to identify the key characters and their roles.
- Students will discuss how the story applies to real-life situations.
- Students will analyze how appearances can be misleading.
- Students will create their own very short moral stories with similar themes.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What is the main lesson we learn from the Ass and the Charger?
  2. How does the story change your perception of what it means to be 'lucky' or 'unlucky'?
  3. Can you think of a time when appearances were deceiving in your own life?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Ass and the Charger"
  - Chart paper and markers
  - Whiteboard and markers