LESSON PLAN

The Ass and the Grasshoppers

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a question: “What do you think is more important, honesty or practicality?” Encourage students to share their thoughts briefly.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in their own words and identify the characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to analyze one character from the story. They should discuss the character's motivations and the consequences of their actions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have each group share their analysis with the class. Then, prompt students to write a short paragraph about a time they faced a similar situation where honesty and practicality clashed.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude the lesson by asking students to write a brief reflection on what they learned about the balance between honesty and practicality.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Ass and the Grasshoppers - The moral of the story is that mere honesty is not always sufficient for prosperity; one must also consider practical circumstances and the realities of life.
- **Plot Summary**: In this classic moral story, a statesman observes a group of laborers who are joyfully singing while they work. Curious about their happiness, he learns that it stems from their honesty. Inspired, he decides to adopt the same principle, only to find himself struggling and eventually dying from want. This tale highlights the disconnect between ideals and the harsh realities of life.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Statesman**: Represents those who believe that honesty alone can lead to happiness and success, showcasing the need for practical wisdom.
  - **The Laborers**: Symbolize the importance of hard work and practical knowledge, demonstrating that honesty must be balanced with realism.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson conveyed in the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their motivations.
  - Students will discuss the implications of honesty versus practicality.
  - Students will relate the story to their own experiences and observations about life.
  - Students will reflect on how the story applies to modern-day situations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. Why do you think the statesman believed that honesty would lead to happiness?
  2. How did the laborers' approach to life differ from that of the statesman?
  3. Can you think of a time when being honest was not enough to solve a problem?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Ass and the Grasshoppers"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students