LESSON PLAN

The Ass and the Old Shepherd

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on power dynamics in society. Ask students if they have ever felt oppressed and what that means to them. Introduce the story as a way to explore these themes.

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 main characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to discuss the moral of the story. Each group should identify examples from the text that illustrate the key themes, such as oppression and the indifference of the oppressed.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how the moral of this story can be applied to modern societal issues. Encourage them to think critically about the dynamics of power in their own lives.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick class discussion. Ask students to share their reflections and thoughts on the story. Use their participation in discussions as a formative assessment of their understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Ass and the Old Shepherd; Moral: The oppressed often remain unchanged by a shift in power.
- **Plot Summary**: A shepherd and his ass face a threat from an enemy. The shepherd urges the ass to flee, but the ass questions why he should worry about who is in charge if he will still carry burdens regardless. This simple yet profound exchange highlights the futility of expecting change without addressing the underlying issues of oppression.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Shepherd**: Represents the voice of urgency and concern for survival.
  - **The Ass**: Symbolizes the oppressed, who remain indifferent to changes in power if their situation does not improve.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story.
  - Students will identify key characters and their significance.
  - Students will analyze the themes of oppression and power dynamics.
  - Students will discuss how this story relates to contemporary issues.
  - Students will develop critical thinking by examining the implications of the ass's perspective.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Ass mean when he says it doesn't matter who he serves?
  2. How can we relate this story to real-life situations where power changes hands?
  3. What might the Ass and the Shepherd represent in our society today?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Ass and the Old Shepherd"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for notes and reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.