LESSON PLAN

The Australian Grasshopper

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief overview of the story's moral. Ask students to share any stories they've heard that illustrate how perception can differ from reality.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Australian Grasshopper" aloud to the class. As you read, pause to highlight key moments where the naturalist's misconceptions arise.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters' viewpoints. Each group will identify instances where the naturalist's perspective leads to misunderstandings. Groups will then share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a brief reflection on a personal experience where their perspective changed after gaining new information or insight. Encourage them to relate their experiences to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick class discussion to assess understanding. Pose questions to gauge students' grasp of the moral lesson and the concept of perspective.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Australian Grasshopper; The moral emphasizes that one's perspective and experiences can greatly distort the perception of reality, leading to exaggerated conclusions.
- **Plot Summary**: A distinguished naturalist in Australia misjudges the size of a grasshopper after witnessing a kangaroo's leap. His exaggerated expectations of the landscape and its features highlight how personal experiences shape one's understanding of reality.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Distinguished Naturalist**: Represents the tendency to draw grand conclusions based on limited observations.
  - **The Native Guide**: Serves as a voice of reason, grounding the naturalist's exaggerated assumptions with practical knowledge.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral lesson embedded in the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' perspectives and their impact on the narrative.
  - Students will discuss how personal experiences influence one's perception of reality.
  - Students will relate the story's message to their own experiences.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. How do the perceptions of the naturalist and the guide differ, and what does this tell us about perspective?
  2. Can you think of a time when your own perspective shaped your understanding of a situation?
  3. What broader lessons about communication and understanding can we learn from this story?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Australian Grasshopper"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.