LESSON PLAN

The Birdcatcher the Partridge and the Cock

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin by asking students what they would do in a situation where they had to choose between friendship and necessity. Encourage a brief discussion.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read the story aloud or have students read it in pairs. Discuss initial reactions and feelings about the characters' choices.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Ask them to analyze each character’s perspective and motivations. They should consider questions like: Why does the Birdcatcher make his choice? What role does necessity play in the decision?

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they had to make a tough decision. Encourage them to draw parallels with the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Ask each group to share their analysis and reflections with the class.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Birdcatcher, the Partridge, and the Cock; The moral of the story is that necessity often forces us to make difficult choices, even at the expense of those who serve us well.
- **Plot summary**: In this fable, a Birdcatcher faces a dilemma when he is unexpectedly visited by a friend while having nothing to eat. He considers killing either his loyal Partridge or his faithful Cock, both of whom serve essential roles in his life. Ultimately, he chooses to sacrifice the Partridge for the sake of dinner, highlighting the harsh choices that necessity can impose.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Birdcatcher**: Represents the human tendency to prioritize immediate needs over loyalty and companionship.
  - **The Partridge**: Symbolizes those who serve us well and have become indispensable, yet can be easily overlooked in times of crisis.

- **The Cock**: Embodies the importance of routine and the often unnoticed contributions of those around us.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and the choices they face.
  - Students will discuss how necessity influences decision-making.
  - Students will relate the story to real-life scenarios where difficult choices are made.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What does the story say about the value of loyalty and service?
  - How do you think the Birdcatcher felt after making his decision?
  - Can you think of a time when you had to make a difficult choice? What was the outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story (printed or digital)
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students
  - Projector (optional, for group discussion)

✓ Original text available on the story page.