LESSON PLAN

The Boneless King

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a funny anecdote about government or leadership to capture students' attention and connect with the humorous elements of the story.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Boneless King" aloud to the class. Use pictures to enhance engagement and provide visual support for the narrative. Pause to discuss key moments and clarify any confusing elements.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will identify and discuss the moral of the story, how the characters reacted to their situation, and what could have been done differently.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how the moral of the story can apply to real-life situations. Encourage them to think about examples from history or their own lives.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz based on the story's characters, plot, and moral. This can include multiple-choice questions or short answer questions.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Boneless King; The moral illustrates that without a solid foundation of governance, the removal of a tyrant can lead to chaos, and sometimes the remnants of past authority can serve as a stabilizing force.
- **Plot Summary**: A group of apes deposes their tyrannical king, only to find themselves in chaos and discord. Seeking guidance, they consult the Oldest and Wisest Ape, who advises that even a tyrant's remnants can provide stability. However, the apes are dismayed to learn that their former king is stuffed and lacks a skeleton.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Apes**: Represent the citizens struggling with governance and the consequences of their actions.
  - **The Oldest and Wisest Ape**: Serves as the voice of reason, highlighting the importance of structure and authority.
  - **The Boneless King**: Symbolizes the consequences of ineffective leadership and the absurdity of their situation.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of governance and authority.
  - Students will analyze the consequences of removing leadership without a plan.
  - Students will explore the theme of stability versus chaos in leadership.
  - Students will engage in creative thinking by discussing alternative endings for the story.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the necessity of leadership?
  2. How can humor be used to convey serious themes in stories?
  3. In what ways can we draw parallels between this story and current events or leadership in society?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Boneless King"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Chart paper for group work
  - Art supplies for extension activities

✓ Original text available on the story page.