LESSON PLAN

The Cat and the Youth

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	45 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of identity. Ask students if they have ever wanted to change something about themselves and what prompted that desire. Introduce the story as a tale that explores these themes.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Cat and the Youth" aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for the characters' motivations and the changes they undergo. Discuss key points as the story progresses.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign them to analyze different aspects of the story:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have each group present their findings. Facilitate a class discussion on the broader lessons learned from

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Cat and the Youth - "Desiring to change one's nature does not guarantee the ability to overcome inherent instincts or fears."
- **Plot Summary**: In this tale, a cat in love with a handsome young man wishes to become a woman to win his affection. Venus grants her wish, but when a mouse appears, her true instincts resurface, revealing that the change is merely superficial. The young man is repulsed, teaching a valuable lesson about the nature of identity and instincts.
- **Key Characters and their Significance**:
  - **The Cat**: Represents desire and the struggle to change one's inherent nature.
  - **The Young Man**: Symbolizes societal expectations and the superficiality of appearances.
  - **Venus**: Embodies the power of transformation and the irony of desire versus reality.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.

- Students will identify the key themes and characters in "The Cat and the Youth."
- Students will explore how the story reflects common human desires and fears.
- Students will analyze the implications of trying to change one's inherent nature.
- Students will connect the story's themes to their own experiences and values.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the cat hoped to achieve by becoming a woman?
  2. How does the cat's reaction to the mouse illustrate her true nature?
  3. In what ways can this story relate to real-life situations where people try to change who they are?
- **Required Materials**:
  - A copy of "The Cat and the Youth"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students
  - Projector (optional for visual aids)

✓ Original text available on the story page.