LESSON PLAN

The Cat-Maiden

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a funny anecdote about a pet's quirky behavior to illustrate the theme of inherent nature. Ask students if they have ever noticed their pets acting in ways that reflect their true nature.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Cat-Maiden" aloud. As a class, discuss the characters and plot. Highlight the humorous elements and the moral theme of the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to analyze the character dynamics. Each group will discuss how each character's perspective contributes to the moral of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students individually write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they felt their true nature was challenged. Encourage them to connect personal growth to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz with multiple-choice questions regarding the characters, plot details, and moral of the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Cat-Maiden; One's inherent nature cannot be changed, regardless of external circumstances or transformations.
- **Plot Summary**: In a divine debate, Jupiter transforms a cat into a maiden to prove that nature can change. At her wedding, she appears to be a proper bride until a mouse appears, revealing her true instincts. This humorous twist highlights the moral that one's true nature cannot be altered, even by magical means.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Jupiter**: The god who believes nature can be changed, representing ambition and idealism.
  - **Venus**: The goddess who insists on the permanence of nature, embodying wisdom and realism.
  - **The Cat-Maiden**: A character caught between two worlds, symbolizing the struggle between external appearances and inherent traits.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and how it applies to personal growth.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and the significance of their actions.
  - Students will engage in discussions about the implications of nature vs. nurture.
  - Students will relate the story to their own experiences and moral dilemmas.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the transformation of the cat into a maiden suggest about identity?
  2. How do the actions of the characters reflect their true nature?
  3. Can you think of a personal experience where you felt your true nature was challenged?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Cat-Maiden"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students