LESSON PLAN

The Cock and the Jewel

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	45 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a question: "What do you think is more valuable, a shiny jewel or a simple meal?" Engage students in a brief discussion about their perceptions of value.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Cock and the Jewel" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words. Discuss the moral and how it applies to real-life situations.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character from the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph in their journals about a time when they valued something differently than someone else. Encourage them to relate their experiences to the moral of the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title**: The Cock and the Jewel
- **Moral/Theme**: Value lies in utility rather than in material worth; what is precious to one may be worthless to another.
- **Plot Summary**: A cock, while scratching for food, discovers a precious jewel. He realizes that the jewel holds no value to him as he would prefer a simple grain of barley to the sparkling stone. This story illustrates the idea that true value is determined by usefulness rather than mere appearance.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Cock**: Represents practicality and the idea that needs dictate value; his preference for food over jewels serves as the core of the moral lesson.
  - **The Jewel**: Symbolizes material wealth that lacks practical use for those who do not need it, highlighting the difference between intrinsic and perceived value.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson behind "The Cock and the Jewel."

- Students will analyze the significance of the characters in conveying the story's message.
- Students will discuss the concept of value and utility in everyday life.
- Students will compare this story with other very short moral stories.
- Students will reflect on personal experiences related to the theme of the story.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the cock's preference for barleycorn over the jewel tell us about his character?
  2. Can you think of a situation where something you own is valuable to you but not to someone else?
  3. How does this story compare to other unique moral stories you have read?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Printed copies of "The Cock and the Jewel"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Journals for reflection
  - Art supplies for extension activities