LESSON PLAN

The Crow and Mercury

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion about promises. Ask students to share times they have made a promise and whether they kept it.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read "The Crow and Mercury" aloud to the class.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to analyze one character’s perspective (the Crow, Apollo, or Mercury) and discuss their motivations and lessons learned.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have each student write a short paragraph about a time they had to make a choice regarding loyalty or keeping a promise. Encourage them to reflect on the outcomes of their decisions.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conduct a quick quiz with 5 questions based on the story's plot, characters, and moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Crow and Mercury; The importance of honoring commitments and loyalty.
- **Plot summary**: A crow caught in a snare prays to Apollo, promising to offer frankincense if he is released. Once freed, he forgets his vow and later finds himself in a similar predicament. When he appeals to Mercury this time, he is reminded of his broken promise to Apollo, highlighting the consequences of disloyalty.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Crow**: Represents individuals who may forget their commitments when faced with difficulties.
  - **Apollo**: Symbolizes the consequences of betrayal and broken promises.
  - **Mercury**: Represents accountability and the importance of loyalty.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to personal integrity.
  - Students will identify key characters and their roles within the narrative.
  - Students will analyze the impact of broken promises in relationships.
  - Students will discuss the importance of loyalty in various cultural contexts.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - Why do you think the crow forgot his promise to Apollo?
  - How does the story illustrate the consequences of disloyalty?
  - Can you think of a situation in your life where keeping a promise was important?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Printed copies of "The Crow and Mercury"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for student notes

✓ Original text available on the story page.