LESSON PLAN

The Disinterested Arbiter

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on conflict resolution. Ask students if they have ever experienced a disagreement and how it was resolved. Introduce the story as an example of what can happen when conflicts are not properly handled.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Disinterested Arbiter" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot and identify the main characters. Discuss their initial reactions to the sheep's decision.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- In small groups, have students analyze the characters' motivations and actions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Bring the class back together and discuss the charts. Encourage students to reflect on how the moral of the story applies to real-life situations, especially in educational or social contexts.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick exit ticket where students write down the moral of the story and one real-life example that relates to it.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Disinterested Arbiter; The moral of the story is that sometimes, those who are uninvolved in a conflict may take actions that disregard the interests of both parties.
- **Plot Summary**: Two dogs argue over a bone and, unable to resolve their dispute, seek the help of a sheep. After hearing both sides, the sheep decides to throw the bone into a pond, leaving both dogs empty-handed. This action illustrates the consequences of relying on an uninterested party for conflict resolution.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Two Dogs**: Represent conflicting parties who cannot find common ground.
  - **The Sheep**: Acts as the disinterested arbiter, highlighting how an uninvolved party may mishandle a conflict.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the concept of conflict resolution.
  - Students will analyze the roles of different characters in the story.
  - Students will reflect on the implications of seeking help from uninterested parties.
  - Students will identify the moral lesson conveyed through the story.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the sheep's actions say about conflict resolution?
  2. How could the dogs have resolved their issue differently?
  3. Can you think of a time when someone uninvolved made a decision that affected you?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Disinterested Arbiter"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Chart paper and markers for group work