LESSON PLAN

The Donkey and the Lapdog

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Ask students to share a funny story where someone tried to imitate another person and faced humorous consequences. Relate this to the story they'll be discussing.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read "The Donkey and the Lapdog" aloud.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to discuss the moral of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Ask students to write a short paragraph about a unique talent they possess and how they can embrace it instead of imitating others.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conduct a quick verbal quiz where students share the moral of the story and one character's motivation.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Donkey and the Lapdog - Embrace your unique talents.
- **Plot summary**: In this humorous fable, a donkey observes the affection and attention a lapdog receives from their master. Jealous and eager for similar affection, the donkey tries to imitate the lapdog's charming behavior, only to face comedic consequences that highlight the folly of pretending to be something one is not.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Donkey**: Represents those who attempt to emulate others without recognizing their own unique strengths.
  - **The Lapdog**: Symbolizes natural charm and talent, illustrating that not everyone can possess the same qualities.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to their lives.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and how they contribute to the story's theme.

- Students will discuss the importance of self-acceptance and authenticity.
- Students will create their own short moral stories inspired by the fable.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What motivated the donkey to try to imitate the lapdog?
  2. How does the story illustrate the dangers of comparing oneself to others?
  3. Can you think of a time when you tried to be like someone else? What did you learn from that experience?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Donkey and the Lapdog"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students