LESSON PLAN

The Fabulist and the Animals

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a short discussion on the nature of criticism. Ask students to share a time they received criticism and how it made them feel.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Fabulist and the Animals" aloud. Pause after each animal's critique to discuss their perspectives and feelings.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, students will analyze the motivations behind each character's criticism. Each group can choose one animal and discuss how their unique traits influence their view of the writer.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a situation where they felt judged or misunderstood. Encourage them to consider how biases may have played a role in that situation.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick class discussion to gauge understanding. Ask students to summarize the moral and share their reflections on the characters' perspectives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Fabulist and the Animals; Criticism can be subjective and often reflects the critic's own biases.
- **Plot summary**: In this engaging moral tale, a famous writer of fables visits a menagerie, where various animals express their critiques of his work. Each animal highlights how the writer's ridicule does not respect their unique characteristics, revealing the moral that criticism can often reflect the biases of the critic rather than the subjects being criticized.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Writer**: Represents those who critique without understanding; his biases color his perspectives.
  - **The Elephant**: Symbolizes those who feel unjustly criticized for their differences.
  - **The Kangaroo**: Represents the marginalized voices that seek recognition and respect.
  - **The Camel**: Embodies traditional values and the importance of familial respect.

- **The Ostrich**: Illustrates the fear of being judged and the desire to hide from criticism.
- **The Buzzard**: Represents the irony of self-serving criticism and health perspectives.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story.
  - Students will analyze the perspectives of different characters.
  - Students will discuss the implications of subjective criticism.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences related to criticism.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the different ways each animal views the writer's critiques?
  2. How does the writer's bias affect his portrayal of the animals?
  3. Why is it important to consider diverse perspectives when offering criticism?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Fabulist and the Animals"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for reflection

✓ Original text available on the story page.