LESSON PLAN

The Farmer's Friend

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on what students think philanthropy means. Ask them to share examples of charitable actions they admire and whether they believe all acts of giving are selfless.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Farmer's Friend" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to ask for predictions about the philanthropist’s actions and the angel’s perspective.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters’ motivations, discussing how each character embodies or contrasts with the theme of true philanthropy. Groups will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they witnessed a selfless act of kindness or a selfish act disguised as charity. Encourage them to think about the motivations behind those actions.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use a quick quiz or exit ticket where students write down the moral of the story and one example of a

---

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Farmer's Friend; The true essence of philanthropy lies in genuine care for others and the environment, rather than self-serving ambitions.
- **Plot Summary**: A self-proclaimed philanthropist boasts about his contributions to society, suggesting that his political ambitions are for the good of the people. However, his insensitivity is highlighted when an angel observes and weeps at the disparity between true kindness and selfish motives. The story emphasizes that real progress stems from authentic concern for the welfare of others.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Philanthropist**: Represents self-serving motives cloaked in a guise of generosity.
  - **The Angel**: Symbolizes true compassion and the divine perspective on human actions.

- **The Farmer**: Embodies the everyday person who benefits from genuine care and support, illustrating the impact of real philanthropy.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its application to real-life scenarios.
  - Students will analyze the motivations of the characters and their implications in the story.
  - Students will discuss the significance of genuine philanthropy vs. self-serving actions.
  - Students will identify examples of moral lessons in other stories.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you believe the author is trying to convey about the nature of true charity?
  2. How do the actions of the philanthropist differ from the farmer’s needs?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our own lives or communities?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Farmer's Friend" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Discussion handouts with key questions and space for notes

✓ Original text available on the story page.