LESSON PLAN

The Flea and the Ox

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a quick discussion about the concept of perspective. Ask students if they've ever felt differently about a situation than someone else, prompting them to think about how perspective affects feelings and actions.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Flea and the Ox" aloud. After reading, discuss the characters and the plot. Ask students to summarize the story in their own words to ensure comprehension.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters. Each group will analyze either the flea or the ox, focusing on their motivations and

how their views reflect their circumstances. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they felt differently about a situation than someone else. How did their perspective influence their feelings and actions?

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick formative assessment by asking students to share their reflections. Use a thumbs-up/thumbs-down method to gauge understanding of the moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Flea and the Ox; The moral of the story is that one's perspective on treatment can vary greatly depending on one's circumstances and nature, highlighting the importance of gratitude and understanding in different situations.
- **Plot summary**: In this moral story, a flea questions an ox about its submissive behavior towards humans. The ox explains that, despite its hard labor, it feels loved and cared for by people. In contrast, the flea reveals that the same affection brings it harm, illustrating how perspectives on treatment can differ based on individual circumstances.
- **Key characters and their significance**:

- **The Flea**: Represents a perspective of resentment and self-interest, highlighting issues of power dynamics and envy.
- **The Ox**: Symbolizes humility and gratitude, demonstrating how appreciation can alter one's view of hardships.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will explore the theme of perspective in moral stories.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications.
  - Students will discuss the importance of gratitude in personal growth.
  - Students will compare different viewpoints in a story with moral.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. How does the flea’s perspective on the ox’s situation differ from the ox’s own view?
  2. What can we learn about gratitude from the ox’s response to its treatment?
  3. In what ways might our own circumstances shape how we perceive our treatment by others?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Flea and the Ox"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for student notes

✓ Original text available on the story page.