LESSON PLAN

# The Gnat and the Bull

| GRADES | TIME | READING LEVEL |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2–6 | 50 min | 5 |

## Lesson flow




5 min

### Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on what makes someone feel important. Ask students to share examples of when they felt overlooked or overly significant in a group setting.

15–20 min

### Story Exploration

Read 'The Gnat and the Bull' aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words. Discuss the key characters and their traits.

15 min

### Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to analyze either the gnat or the bull. They will discuss the character's motivations, feelings, and the lesson they embody.

10 min

### Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph about a personal experience where they or someone else might have overestimated their importance. Encourage them to connect it back to the moral of the story.

5 min

### Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write one thing they learned from the story and how they can apply that lesson in their lives.

---

# STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Gnat and the Bull; Moral: Individuals may overestimate their importance to others.
- **Plot Summary**: A gnat, feeling proud of its presence, settles on a bull's horn and believes it is significant. When the gnat offers to leave, the bull reveals that it was unaware of the gnat's presence and will not miss it. This fable teaches that one may think they are more important than they truly are in the eyes of others.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Gnat**: Represents arrogance and self-importance, believing it is vital to the bull.
  - **Bull**: Symbolizes humility and indifference to the gnat's inflated sense of importance.

# LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

    - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to everyday life.
    - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications.
    - Students will discuss the themes of humility and self-importance.
    - Students will reflect on personal experiences related to the moral of the story.
- **Discussion Questions**:
    - What does the gnat's behavior tell us about self-perception?
    - How does the bull's response challenge the gnat's view of its importance?
    - Can you think of a time when you or someone else overestimated their importance in a situation?
- **Required Materials**:
    - Copies of 'The Gnat and the Bull' fable
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.