LESSON PLAN

The Gnat and the Lion

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of pride. Ask students to share examples of times they or someone they know was overly confident.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. After reading, break students into small groups to discuss the plot and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Have students create a character map for both the Gnat and the Lion. Ask them to identify traits, motivations, and the consequences of their actions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Facilitate a classroom discussion about how pride manifests in real life. Encourage students to share personal experiences that relate to the story's moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use an exit ticket where students write one lesson they learned from the story and how they can apply it in their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Gnat and the Lion; **Moral**: Pride and overconfidence can lead to one's downfall, regardless of apparent strength or success.
- **Plot summary**: In this fable, a Gnat boasts about its strength compared to a Lion, challenging it to a fight. The Gnat manages to sting the Lion, causing it to injure itself in a futile attempt to crush the tiny insect. However, the Gnat's victory is short-lived as it soon falls prey to a spider, highlighting the dangers of arrogance.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Gnat**: Represents overconfidence and the folly of underestimating others.
  - **The Lion**: Embodies strength but also serves as a cautionary figure about pride.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their consequences.
  - Students will discuss how pride can impact decision-making.
  - Students will connect the story to broader themes found in motivational stories with moral lessons.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the consequences of the Gnat's overconfidence in the story?
  2. How does the Lion's reaction to the Gnat reflect themes of pride and strength?
  3. Can you think of a time in your life where overconfidence led to an unexpected outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Printed copies of the story "The Gnat and the Lion"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Chart paper for group activities

✓ Original text available on the story page.