LESSON PLAN

The Hart and the Vine

GRADES	READING LEVEL
2–4	4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Hart and the Vine - "One should not harm those who provide shelter or protection, as it may lead to one's own downfall."
- **Plot Summary:** In this classic moral story, a Hart escapes from hunters by hiding under the leaves of a Vine. After the danger seems to have passed, the Hart begins to nibble at the Vine's tendrils, only to be discovered by a huntsman and fatally shot. In its last moments, the Hart realizes its mistake in mistreating the very plant that had protected it.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Hart:** Represents those who take shelter but may forget to show gratitude.
  - **The Vine:** Symbolizes protection and support, highlighting the importance of respecting those who help us.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will identify the moral of "The Hart and the Vine."
- Students will analyze the relationship between the Hart and the Vine.
- Students will discuss the consequences of ingratitude.
- Students will relate the story to personal experiences where they felt protected or helped.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What actions did the Hart take that led to its downfall?
  2. How does this story relate to real-life situations where someone has harmed those who helped them?
  3. In what ways can we show gratitude to those who offer us support?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Hart and the Vine"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for student notes

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**

Begin with a quick anecdote about a time someone helped you, followed by a humorous question: "Have you ever bitten the hand that feeds you?" This will engage students and set the stage for the story.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**

Read "The Hart and the Vine" aloud to the class. Encourage students to follow along and take notes on key points, characters, and the

unfolding plot.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**

Divide students into small groups and assign them to analyze different aspects of the story. Each group will discuss the Hart's choices, the Vine's role, and the story's moral. Groups will then share their insights with the class.

- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**

Ask students to write a short paragraph about a time they may have taken someone’s help for granted. What did they learn from that experience? How can they apply the moral of this story in their own lives?

- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**

Conclude with a quick quiz on key points from the story and the moral lesson. Alternatively, students could share their reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.