LESSON PLAN

The Hawk and the Nightingale

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	45 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about choices and opportunities. Ask students to share a time when they had to make a decision between a sure thing and a riskier option.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Hawk and the Nightingale" aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for the characters' motivations and the moral of the story. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups. Have each group discuss the motivations of the Hawk and the Nightingale. They should consider questions such as:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Reconvene as a class and ask groups to share their insights. Then, prompt students to reflect on a personal experience where they had to choose between an immediate opportunity and a long-term goal.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Hawk and the Nightingale - "One should not overlook immediate opportunities for uncertain prospects."
- **Plot Summary**: In this well-known moral story, a Nightingale is caught by a hungry Hawk. As the Nightingale pleads for his life, he argues that he is too small to satisfy the Hawk's hunger and suggests that the Hawk should pursue larger birds. The Hawk, however, emphasizes the importance of seizing the opportunity at hand rather than chasing uncertain prospects.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Nightingale**: Represents vulnerability and the instinct for survival, illustrating the idea of immediate value.
  - **Hawk**: Embodies the predator's perspective, highlighting the importance of taking advantage of present opportunities.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and how it applies to real-life situations.

- Students will identify the key characters and their motivations within the story.
- Students will analyze the consequences of the Hawk's and Nightingale's actions.
- Students will engage in discussions that connect the story to broader themes of opportunity and risk.
- Students will create their own quick moral stories inspired by the themes in "The Hawk and the Nightingale."

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the interaction between the Hawk and the Nightingale reveal about the nature of opportunity?
  2. How does the story reflect the idea of taking risks versus playing it safe?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our daily lives?

- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Hawk and the Nightingale" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students