LESSON PLAN

The Hen and the Swallow

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on kindness. Ask students to share examples of when they helped someone and if those situations had positive or negative outcomes.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Hen and the Swallow" aloud. Discuss key events in the story, asking students to identify the Hen's motivations and the Swallow's concerns. Encourage students to take notes on their thoughts.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Each group will discuss the Hen’s actions, the Swallow’s warning, and the moral of the story. Groups will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on how they can apply the moral of the story to their own lives. Encourage them to think of specific scenarios where discernment in kindness is important.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick class discussion to recap the moral of the story. Students can share their reflections, and the teacher can assess understanding based on participation and insight.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Hen and the Swallow; Moral: Be cautious in your kindness, as helping the wrong individuals can lead to harm.
- **Plot Summary**: In this short story, a Hen discovers and nurtures the eggs of a viper, believing she is doing a good deed. A Swallow warns her about the dangers of hatching these vipers, highlighting the consequences of misplaced kindness.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Hen**: Represents misguided kindness and naivety, illustrating the risks of helping those who may cause harm.
  - **The Swallow**: Serves as a voice of reason, emphasizing the importance of discernment in our actions and the potential consequences of our good intentions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications in real life.
  - Students will analyze the actions of the Hen and the Swallow, discussing their motivations and consequences.
  - Students will compare this story to other moral stories, identifying unique themes and lessons.
  - Students will reflect on their own experiences with kindness and discernment in their actions.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the Hen could have done differently?
  2. How does the Swallow's warning apply to situations we encounter in everyday life?
  3. Can you think of a time when showing kindness had unexpected consequences?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Hen and the Swallow"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for student reflections