LESSON PLAN

The Herdsman and the Lost Bull

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
4–8	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about well-known moral stories. Ask students to share any stories they know where characters face a dilemma or change their priorities.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. Pause at key moments to ask students to predict what might happen next or how they think the characters feel.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze different aspects of the story, such as character motivations, the moral lesson, and how it relates to other inspirational stories with moral themes.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they or someone they know had to change their priorities in a challenging situation.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz or a few questions to assess understanding of the story's moral and themes.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Herdsman and the Lost Bull; Moral: People often make vows in desperation, but when faced with true danger, their priorities shift dramatically.
- **Plot Summary**: A herdsman loses a bull-calf and vows to sacrifice a lamb to the deities if he finds the thief. When he discovers a lion devouring the calf, his fear leads him to reconsider his vow, wishing instead to offer a full-grown bull just to escape safely.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Herdsman**: Represents human desperation and the tendency to make promises in moments of distress.
  - **The Lion**: Embodies the true danger and the harsh realities of life that challenge our commitments.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

    - Students will understand the moral implications of making vows in desperation.
    - Students will analyze character motivations in the story.
    - Students will relate the story's theme to real-life situations.
    - Students will discuss how priorities can change when faced with danger.
- **Discussion Questions**:
    - What does the herdsman’s reaction to the lion reveal about human nature?
    - How do you think the herdsman felt after making his vow?
    - Can you think of a real-life situation where someone changed their priorities in response to danger?
- **Required Materials**:
    - Copies of the story "The Herdsman and the Lost Bull"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and pencils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.