LESSON PLAN

The Horse and His Rider

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what it means to care for someone or something. Ask students if they have ever felt unappreciated and how that made them feel.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Horse and His Rider" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to gauge students' reactions and encourage predictions about what will happen next.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the key characters and their motivations. Have them identify examples of neglect and its consequences in the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on a time when they or someone they know experienced neglect. Encourage them to connect it to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections to assess understanding of the moral. Use a quick exit ticket where students write down one lesson they learned from the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Horse and His Rider; Neglect and mistreatment can diminish someone's abilities, making it unreasonable to expect them to perform at their best after being subjected to hardship.
- **Plot Summary**: A diligent soldier treats his horse with care during wartime, but after the war ends, he neglects the horse, allowing it to suffer through hard labor. When the soldier is called to war again, he expects the horse to perform as it did before, but the horse is no longer capable due to the mistreatment it has endured.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Soldier**: Represents the neglectful figure who fails to recognize the impact of his actions on others.
  - **The Horse**: Symbolizes those who suffer from neglect and how mistreatment can hinder one's abilities.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the consequences of neglect and mistreatment.
  - Students will analyze the character dynamics within the story.
  - Students will discuss how the moral applies to real-life situations.
  - Students will explore the importance of empathy towards others.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What changed in the relationship between the soldier and the horse after the war?
  2. How does the treatment of the horse reflect on the soldier's character?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our own lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Horse and His Rider"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for notes