LESSON PLAN

The Horse and the Ass

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of empathy. Ask students if they have ever felt overwhelmed and needed help. Share a personal anecdote to connect with the students.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Horse and the Ass" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words. Highlight the key characters and their roles in conveying the moral.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character from the story. Have them discuss the character's motivations and the story's moral.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Lead a discussion on real-world scenarios where sharing burdens is essential. Encourage students to think of situations in their lives where they can help others or where they have received help.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write down one moral lesson they learned from the story and how

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Horse and the Ass; The moral of the story is that we should share the burdens of others, as neglecting their struggles can ultimately lead to greater consequences for ourselves.
- **Plot summary**: In this concise moral story, a rude horse travels alongside a struggling ass burdened with a heavy load. The ass pleads for help, but the horse refuses, believing he is clever for carrying little. Eventually, the ass collapses, leaving the horse to bear the entire burden alone, illustrating the importance of empathy and shared responsibility.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Horse**: Represents selfishness and the consequences of neglecting the struggles of others.
  - **The Ass**: Symbolizes the burden of hardship and the importance of seeking help in times of need.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will analyze the character motivations and outcomes in the story.
  - Students will discuss the importance of empathy and shared responsibilities.
  - Students will connect the story to other short stories to learn morals.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What could the horse have done differently to help the ass?
  2. How does this story relate to our everyday lives in terms of helping others?
  3. Can you think of other short stories with moral lessons that emphasize the importance of sharing burdens?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Horse and the Ass"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students
  - List of other short stories with moral lessons