LESSON PLAN

The Lion and the Rattlesnake

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about times students have felt overly confident in different situations. Ask them if they ever faced unexpected challenges because of their confidence.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Lion and the Rattlesnake" aloud to the class. Encourage students to visualize the scenes and consider the emotions of the characters. Pause to ask questions about their thoughts on the characters' decisions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Ask them to analyze the actions of the man and the rattlesnake, and discuss what each character teaches

us about confidence. Each group will then share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they learned a lesson about confidence and determination. Encourage them to connect their experience to the story's moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflection paragraphs to assess students' understanding of the moral. Provide feedback based on their ability to connect personal experiences to the story

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Lion and the Rattlesnake; Overconfidence and determination can lead to failure when focused on an impossible task.
- **Plot Summary**: A man attempts to subdue a lion using only the power of his gaze, while a rattlesnake successfully captures a bird nearby. As the man struggles with his task, he learns from the snake that success often requires a different approach than sheer willpower.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Man**: Represents overconfidence and the folly of believing one can control everything through sheer will.

- **The Lion**: Symbolizes strength and indifference to the man's efforts, showcasing the futility of his challenge.
- **The Rattlesnake**: Illustrates cunning and adaptability, highlighting the importance of using the right methods to achieve goals.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of the story.
  - Students will analyze character actions and their consequences.
  - Students will discuss the themes of confidence and determination.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences related to the story's moral.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the man could have done differently to achieve success?
  2. How does the rattlesnake's approach differ from the man's?
  3. Can you think of a time when overconfidence led to a problem for you or someone you know?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Lion and the Rattlesnake" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.