LESSON PLAN

The Lion and the Thorn

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking question: “Have you ever helped someone who later betrayed your trust?” Share brief anecdotes to engage students.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Lion and the Thorn" aloud, encouraging students to visualize the characters' emotions. Discuss the initial reactions of the lion and the shepherd.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Break students into small groups to analyze the lion's motivations and the shepherd's fate.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have students write a short paragraph on a personal experience where they felt kindness was misinterpreted or betrayed.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use an exit ticket where students write one lesson they learned from the story and how it applies to their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Lion and the Thorn - The moral of the story is that kindness can be repaid with betrayal, and one should be cautious in trusting those they help.
- **Plot Summary**: A lion with a thorn in his foot seeks the help of a shepherd to remove it. The shepherd helps the lion, who, instead of harming him, walks away unharmed. Later, when the shepherd is falsely accused and brought to the lions, one lion recognizes him as the one who helped, but instead of showing gratitude, he devours the shepherd.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Lion**: Represents strength and betrayal. Initially a figure of power, his actions reveal the darker side of trust and kindness.
  - **The Shepherd**: Represents vulnerability and the consequences of misplaced trust. His kindness leads to his downfall, highlighting the theme of betrayal.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main characters and their roles in the story.
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the lion's actions.
  - Students will reflect on the theme of trust and betrayal in relationships.
  - Students will compare this story to other unique moral stories that convey similar themes.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story teach us about the nature of kindness and its potential consequences?
  2. How can the actions of the lion be interpreted in different cultural contexts?
  3. In what ways can this story serve as a life-lesson for personal growth?
- **Required Materials**:
  - A copy of "The Lion and the Thorn"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for student reflections