LESSON PLAN

The Man and the Bird

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about games or competitions students enjoy. Ask them if they ever felt the competition was unfair and why.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Man and the Bird" aloud. Encourage students to visualize the characters and the stakes involved. Prompt them to share their first impressions of the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the story's moral. Each group will identify examples of unfair competitions in sports, games, or real-life scenarios, and how these compare to the bird's perspective.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on a time they felt a competition was unfair. Ask them to consider how they would change the situation to make it fair.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick class discussion where students share their reflections. Assess understanding through their contributions and insights.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Man and the Bird; The moral of the story is that true fairness in a competition requires that both parties have something to gain, and when one side faces disproportionate stakes, the game is not just.
- **Plot Summary**: In this thought-provoking tale, a man confidently asserts that his hunting skills are a fair match against a bird's cunning. However, the bird points out the unequal stakes of their "game," highlighting the inherent injustice in a contest where only one party has everything to lose.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Man with a Shotgun**: Represents those who believe competition is fair without considering the stakes involved.
  - **The Bird**: Symbolizes the voice of reason and fairness, emphasizing the importance of equity in competition.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the concept of fairness in competitions.
  - Students will identify and discuss the moral implications of unequal stakes.
  - Students will relate the story's message to real-life situations.
  - Students will reflect on the significance of both winning and losing in a fair game.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does fairness mean in the context of competition?
  2. How do the stakes involved affect our perception of a game or contest?
  3. Can you think of a situation where the odds were not in your favor? How did it make you feel?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Man and the Bird"
  - Whiteboard and markers for brainstorming
  - Paper and pens for reflection exercises

✓ Original text available on the story page.