LESSON PLAN

The Man and the Serpent

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on forgiveness. Ask students if they have ever had to forgive someone and how they felt afterward. Introduce the idea that sometimes forgiveness is not enough to heal wounds.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Man and the Serpent" aloud to the class. Encourage students to visualize the story as it unfolds, noting the emotions and actions of the characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will discuss the motivations of the farmer and the serpent. They should consider questions like: What could have been done differently? What are the

consequences of their actions? Groups will share their insights with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students reflect on a time they experienced a conflict or injury, either personally or observed. They will write a short paragraph on how they approached forgiveness and any lingering feelings they had.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the written reflections to assess understanding of the story's moral and the ability to relate it to personal experience.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Man and the Serpent; Injuries may be forgiven, but the memories of them often linger and prevent true reconciliation.
- **Plot Summary**: A farmer's son accidentally steps on a serpent's tail, leading to the child's death from the serpent's bite. In revenge, the father harms the serpent, sparking a cycle of vengeance. Eventually, the farmer seeks reconciliation, but the serpent refuses, highlighting the difficulty of true forgiveness.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Farmer**: Represents the instinct for revenge and the struggle to forgive.
  - **The Serpent**: Symbolizes the long-lasting impact of injuries and the challenges in restoring trust.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the key themes and morals in the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and consequences of their actions.
  - Students will discuss the real-life implications of forgiveness and reconciliation.
  - Students will create their own small moral stories inspired by the themes of the tale.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What motivated the actions of both the farmer and the serpent?
  2. Can true reconciliation occur after a serious injury or betrayal? Why or why not?
  3. How does the story reflect common themes found in animal stories with moral lessons?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Man and the Serpent"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.