LESSON PLAN

The Man and the Wood

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening hook

Begin with a humorous anecdote about lending a friend a tool and how it backfired. Engage students by asking if they've ever helped someone who didn't appreciate it.

15–20 min

Story exploration

Read "The Man and the Wood" aloud. Pause at key moments to ask students what they think will happen next. Encourage them to express their thoughts about the man's actions and the trees' decisions.

15 min

Analysis exercises

- Group students into pairs and have them discuss the motivations of the man and the trees.

10 min

Application/reflection

Prompt students to think about a time they were kind to someone, and it was taken advantage of. Have them write a short reflection on what they learned from that experience and how they might approach similar situations in the future.

5 min

Assessment strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write down one thing they learned about trust and one question they still have about the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Man and the Wood; Moral: Be cautious of whom you assist, as kindness can be exploited by those with harmful intentions.
- **Plot Summary**: A man enters a wood and asks the trees for a small branch, claiming he needs it for a specific purpose. The trees, being trusting and good-natured, grant his request. However, the man uses the branch to create an axe and begins to cut down the very trees that helped him, showcasing the consequences of misplaced trust.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Man**: Represents deceit and betrayal; he exploits the kindness of the trees for his own gain.
  - **The Trees**: Symbolize innocence and trust; their decision to help ultimately leads to their downfall.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- Students will understand the importance of being cautious about whom they assist.
- Students will identify the moral lesson in the story and relate it to their own experiences.
- Students will analyze the characters' actions and their consequences.
- Students will discuss the significance of trust and betrayal in relationships.
- Students will create their own concise moral stories based on the themes of kindness and exploitation.

✓ Original text available on the story page.