LESSON PLAN

The Man the Horse the Ox and the Dog

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	45 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on animals and their characteristics. Ask students to share their favorite animals and what traits they associate with them. Introduce the story as a simple moral story that reveals deeper meanings about life.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words. Discuss the key characters and their significance, ensuring to highlight the different life stages represented by the animals.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group one of the three animals. Have them create a character map that includes traits,

actions, and how those traits affect the man throughout his life. Groups will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Facilitate a class discussion on how the story's moral can be applied to real-life situations. Encourage students to reflect on their own lives and how they relate to the traits of each animal as they

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Man, the Horse, the Ox, and the Dog - The stages of a man's life are influenced by the characteristics of animals, reflecting traits associated with youth, middle age, and old age.
- **Plot Summary**: In this short moral story, a man provides shelter and care for a horse, ox, and dog during a cold spell. In gratitude, the animals decide to divide the man's life into three stages, each representing their own unique traits that characterize those stages. The story highlights how these traits manifest in human behavior throughout life.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Man**: Represents humanity and the collective experience of life stages.
  - **The Horse**: Symbolizes youth with its impetuousness and stubbornness.
  - **The Ox**: Represents middle age, characterized by hard work and dedication.

- **The Dog**: Embodies old age, showcasing irritability and self-centeredness.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main characters and their traits.
  - Students will analyze the moral of the story and its relevance to daily life.
  - Students will compare the stages of life depicted in the story to their own experiences.
  - Students will discuss how the characteristics of animals relate to human behavior.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What traits did each animal represent in the story?
  - How do you think the characteristics associated with each life stage affect a person's relationships?
  - Can you think of examples from your life where you have seen these traits in yourself or others?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Printed copies of the story.
  - Whiteboard and markers.
  - Paper for student notes.

✓ Original text available on the story page.