LESSON PLAN

The Mountain and the Mouse

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about times when students had high expectations that were not met. Ask them to share their experiences.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Mountain and the Mouse" aloud. Pause at key moments to gauge reactions and encourage predictions about the outcome.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, students will analyze the key themes and characters. They will create a character map showing the Mountain and the Mouse's traits, and discuss the significance of their actions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where their expectations were unmet, relating it back to the story's moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflection paragraphs to assess understanding of the moral and character analysis.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Mountain and the Mouse; Theme: Great expectations can lead to disappointment when the outcome is much smaller than anticipated.
- **Plot Summary**: In this short moral story, the townsfolk eagerly await the birth of a mighty creature from the great Mountain, only to be surprised when a tiny Mouse emerges. Their disappointment reflects the disparity between their lofty expectations and the modest reality.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Mountain**: Represents grandeur and the weight of expectations.
  - **The Mouse**: Symbolizes humility and the idea that great things can come in small packages, despite not meeting grand expectations.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications.
- Students will analyze the characters' reactions to the outcome of the Mountain's labor.
- Students will discuss the impact of expectations on perception and reality.
- Students will relate the themes of the story to personal experiences of expectation and disappointment.
- Students will explore the relevance of concise moral stories in everyday life.

Discussion Questions

1. What were the townsfolk expecting to see, and how did their reaction change when the Mouse appeared?
2. How does the story reflect real-life situations where expectations do not match reality?
3. In what ways can a small achievement hold significant value despite being less than expected?

Required Materials

- Printed copies of "The Mountain and the Mouse"
- Whiteboard and markers
- Paper and pens for students
- Projector (optional for visual aids)

✓ Original text available on the story page.