LESSON PLAN

The Mountain in Labor

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about expectations. Ask students if they have ever been excited about something that turned out to be disappointing. Share a short anecdote to relate to the theme of the lesson.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Mountain in Labor" aloud. Pause to discuss key moments in the story and encourage students to visualize the scene. Use pictures to enhance understanding.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students identify the main characters and discuss their roles. Each group will present their findings, focusing on what the mountain and the mouse symbolize.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Prompt students to write a short moral story of their own, inspired by "The Mountain in Labor." They should incorporate a similar theme of expectations versus reality.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect students' stories and assess their understanding of the moral. Provide feedback based on clarity of theme and creativity.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Mountain in Labor - The moral of the story is that often, what appears to be a significant event may result in something trivial.
- **Plot summary**: In this famous moral story, a mountain causes great commotion, groaning and making noises that draw a crowd of anxious onlookers. After much anticipation and excitement, the source of the disturbance is revealed to be a mere mouse, illustrating how expectations can sometimes exceed reality.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Mountain**: Represents situations that seem dramatic but may lead to insignificant outcomes.
  - **The Mouse**: Symbolizes the trivial result of a much-anticipated event, highlighting the humor in human expectations.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications in real life.
  - Students will analyze the significance of characters in conveying the story's theme.
  - Students will discuss how expectations can shape perceptions of events.
  - Students will create their own short moral stories inspired by "The Mountain in Labor."
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the reaction of the crowd to the mountain's noises tell us about human nature?
  2. How might "The Mountain in Labor" relate to situations we encounter in everyday life?
  3. Can you think of a time when you expected something significant to happen, but the outcome was trivial? Share your experience.
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Mountain in Labor" (short moral story)
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Art supplies for extension activities
  - Access to short moral stories with pictures for reference