LESSON PLAN

# The Mountains in Labour

| GRADES | TIME | READING LEVEL |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2–4 | 45 min | 3 |

## Lesson flow




5 min

### Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion on times when students have anticipated something big, encouraging laughter and engagement.

15–20 min

### Story Exploration

- Read "The Mountains in Labour" aloud to the class.

15 min

### Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign them to identify the moral of the story.

10 min

### Application/Reflection

- Ask students to write a short paragraph about a time they experienced something similar to the story's message.

# STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Mountains in Labour; The moral is that sometimes great anticipation or fear can lead to insignificant results.
- **Plot summary**: In this humorous tale, Countrymen witness the mountains seemingly in distress, leading them to believe something catastrophic is about to occur. After much waiting and anxiety, they are surprised to find that the mountains only give birth to a tiny mouse, demonstrating that loud events can lead to trivial outcomes.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Countrymen**: Represent the collective human tendency to overreact to situations, illustrating how fear can distort perception.
  - **Mountains**: Symbolize the grandeur and might of nature, contrasting with the smallness of the eventual outcome.

# LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will be able to summarize the plot of "The Mountains in Labour."
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and relate it to real-life situations.
  - Students will discuss the characters' roles and their significance in conveying the story's message.

- Students will connect the story to other well-known moral stories and explore common themes.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What do you think the Countrymen were feeling as they waited for the mountains to deliver something?
  - Can you relate any personal experiences where you anticipated something big, but it turned out to be small or insignificant?
  - How does this story compare to other humorous stories with moral lessons you've read?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Mountains in Labour" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students
  - Optional: videos or images depicting mountains and earthquakes for visual context

✓ Original text available on the story page.