LESSON PLAN

The Mouse and the Bull

GRADES
2–4

READING LEVEL
3

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** The Mouse and the Bull; Theme: The small can outsmart the powerful.
- **Plot summary:** A Bull, angered by a small Mouse that bit him, attempts to capture the Mouse but fails repeatedly. The Mouse, using his agility and cleverness, proves that even the seemingly insignificant can cause trouble for the mighty. Ultimately, the Bull learns that strength does not guarantee victory.
- **Key characters and their significance:**
  - **The Bull:** Represents strength and power but is ultimately outsmarted.
  - **The Mouse:** Symbolizes cunning and the idea that even the weak can triumph through intelligence.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning objectives:**
  - Students will identify the key themes in the story.

    - Students will analyze the characters' traits and their significance.
    - Students will discuss the moral of the story in relation to real-life situations.
    - Students will compare this fable to other classic moral stories.
- **Discussion questions:**
    - What does this story teach us about the relationship between strength and intelligence?
    - Can you think of a real-life story where a smaller opponent outsmarted a larger one?
    - How does humor play a role in conveying the moral of this fable?
- **Required materials:**
    - Copies of the story "The Mouse and the Bull"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and pencils for students

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening hook (5 min):** Start with a brief discussion on the concept of "David vs. Goliath." Ask students if they know any stories where the underdog prevails against a stronger opponent.
- **Story exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Mouse and the Bull" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words and share their initial reactions.
- **Analysis exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups and have them discuss the characters' traits. Each group should answer the following:

    - What does the Bull represent in society?
    - How does the Mouse's behavior challenge our assumptions about size and strength?

Groups will then share their insights with the class.

- **Application/reflection (10 min):** Ask students to think of a time when they felt small or insignificant. Have them reflect on how they handled the situation and if they used their intelligence to overcome it.
- **Assessment strategy (5 min):** Conduct a quick quiz with questions about the story's main events, characters, and moral. Use this to assess understanding of the fable's themes.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension activities:**
    - Write a short story that mirrors the themes from "The Mouse and the Bull."
    - Create a comic strip that retells the fable with a modern twist.