LESSON PLAN

The Oak and the Reeds

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on the importance of flexibility in life. Ask students if they have ever faced a situation where being adaptable helped them succeed.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. Encourage students to visualize the scene as you read, discussing the setting and characters. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in their own words.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze the traits of the oak and the reeds, discussing how these traits influenced their outcomes. Groups will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students reflect on personal experiences where they had to adapt or be stubborn. Ask them to write a short paragraph about a time they learned to be flexible or faced consequences for being inflexible.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz on the moral of the story, asking students to provide examples of situations where they would apply the lessons learned from the fable.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Oak and the Reeds; The moral of the story is that adapting and yielding to challenges can lead to survival, while stubbornness can lead to downfall.
- **Plot Summary**: In this fable, a mighty oak tree is uprooted by a fierce wind, while the flexible reeds nearby remain unbroken. The oak learns that its strength, which it believed would protect it, ultimately leads to its downfall, while the reeds' ability to bend allows them to survive.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Oak**: Represents strength and stubbornness; serves as a warning against inflexibility.
  - **The Reeds**: Symbolize adaptability and resilience; illustrate the importance of yielding to survive.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of adaptability versus stubbornness.
  - Students will analyze character traits and their implications in the story.
  - Students will discuss how the themes relate to real-life situations.
  - Students will create their own short moral stories inspired by the themes of the fable.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the oak tree symbolize, and how does it contrast with the reeds?
  2. Can you think of a real-life situation where being flexible helped someone overcome a challenge?
  3. How can the moral of this story be applied in our daily lives or in a workplace setting?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Oak and the Reeds"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for each student

✓ Original text available on the story page.