LESSON PLAN

The Oak and the Woodcutters

GRADES	READING LEVEL
2–5	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** The Oak and the Woodcutters
- **Moral/Theme:** The hardest misfortunes to endure are those that arise from our own actions or creations.
- **Plot Summary:** In this poignant tale, a Woodcutter fells a majestic Mountain Oak, using branches of the tree itself to create wedges for dividing the trunk. The Oak laments that while it can withstand the axe's blows, it suffers deeply from being destroyed by its own parts. This story illustrates how self-inflicted misfortunes can be the most painful of all.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **The Woodcutter:** Represents human actions and the consequences that stem from them.
  - **The Oak:** Symbolizes resilience and the tragedy of self-destruction.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance in everyday life.
- Students will identify the key characters and their roles in conveying the story's message.
- Students will analyze the impact of self-inflicted misfortunes as presented in the tale.
- Students will engage in discussions about personal experiences related to the moral.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  - What does the Oak's lament reveal about the nature of suffering?
  - Can you think of a time when you faced consequences as a result of your own actions?
  - How can we apply the moral of this story to our decisions in life?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Oak and the Woodcutters"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for student reflections

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a short discussion on how some stories can teach us valuable lessons. Ask students if they have heard any impactful moral stories and what they learned from them.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Oak and the Woodcutters" aloud to the class. Encourage students to visualize

the scenes and feel the Oak's emotions.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups to discuss the moral. Each group will identify examples from their lives that relate to the story's theme, focusing on the concept of self-inflicted misfortunes.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a situation where they learned a lesson from their own actions, relating it back to the Oak's experience.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude with a quick sharing session where students can present their reflections. Assess understanding based on participation and insight during discussions.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Create a visual representation (drawing or collage) of the moral.
  - Write a short story with a new scenario that illustrates a self

✓ Original text available on the story page.