LESSON PLAN

The Oaks and Jupiter

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
4–5	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about the importance of helping others. Ask students if they've ever felt that their helpfulness led to negative consequences.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Oaks and Jupiter" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to discuss students' interpretations and feelings about the Oaks' predicament.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Break students into small groups to analyze the Oaks' characteristics and motivations.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Regroup and have each group share their findings. Encourage students to reflect on how this story can apply to their own lives, emphasizing the balance between being helpful and protecting oneself.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz with true/false questions about the story's moral and characters, ensuring understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Oaks and Jupiter; Moral: "One's utility and service to others can lead to greater vulnerability and risk."
- **Plot Summary**: In this classic moral story, the Oaks complain to Jupiter about their constant threat of being cut down. Jupiter responds by revealing that their usefulness as strong pillars and posts makes them targets for carpenters and farmers. Their service to others, while admirable, also exposes them to danger.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Oaks**: Represent those who are useful and helpful but suffer the consequences of their utility.
  - **Jupiter**: The god who serves as a voice of wisdom, illustrating the relationship between service and vulnerability.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
- Students will analyze character motivations and their consequences.
- Students will discuss the implications of utility and service in their own lives.
- Students will explore the connection between vulnerability and being helpful to others.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think about the Oaks' complaint to Jupiter? Is it justified?
  2. How does Jupiter's response reflect the balance between service and vulnerability?
  3. Can you think of a time when being helpful put you at risk? How did you handle it?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Oaks and Jupiter"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for note-taking

✓ Original text available on the story page.