LESSON PLAN

The Olive Tree and the Fig Tree

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about trees and seasons. Ask students if they have a favorite tree and why. Introduce the story by mentioning how different trees handle changes in their environment.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. After reading, engage students by asking them to summarize the key events and describe the characters' traits.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group to analyze either the Olive Tree or the Fig Tree. They will identify the strengths and weaknesses of their assigned character and prepare to share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on a time when they had to adapt to a change in their life. Encourage them to relate their experiences back to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write down one new thing they learned about adaptability and resilience from the lesson.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Olive Tree and the Fig Tree; Adaptability and resilience in the face of change can be more advantageous than seeming strength and permanence.
- **Plot Summary**: In this tale, the Olive Tree mocks the Fig Tree for its seasonal changes. However, when a heavy snowfall occurs, the Olive Tree's abundance of leaves causes it to break under the weight, while the Fig Tree, having shed its leaves, remains unharmed. The story teaches us the value of adaptability over mere strength.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Olive Tree**: Represents perceived strength and permanence but ultimately suffers due to its inability to adapt.
  - **Fig Tree**: Symbolizes adaptability and resilience, thriving through change and hardship.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will compare and contrast the characteristics of the Olive Tree and the Fig Tree.
  - Students will discuss the importance of adaptability and resilience in their own lives.
  - Students will create a personal reflection piece on a time they had to adapt to change.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the Olive Tree could have done differently to avoid its fate?
  2. How can we apply the lessons from this story to our everyday lives?
  3. Can you think of a real-life example where adaptability led to success?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Olive Tree and the Fig Tree"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for reflection activities