LESSON PLAN

The Opossum of the Future

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on survival stories. Ask students if they know any stories where characters had to use their wits to survive. Introduce "The Opossum of the Future" as a tale of cleverness.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for key moments that illustrate the Opossum's cleverness and adaptability.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to analyze the characters:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Lead a class discussion on how the moral of the story applies to real-life situations. Ask students to share personal experiences where they had to adapt to overcome a challenge.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz where students write down the moral of the story and one example of adaptability from their own lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Opossum of the Future; The importance of adaptability and quick thinking in survival.
- **Plot Summary**: In this wisdom-packed moral story, an Opossum finds himself in a precarious situation hanging from a tree branch with a Snake coiled around it. Faced with the threat of being eaten or falling to his doom, the Opossum cleverly employs flattery and wit to navigate this dangerous encounter, highlighting the significance of adaptability.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **Opossum**: Represents cleverness and the ability to adapt to survive.
  - **Snake**: Symbolizes danger and traditional thinking, contrasting the Opossum's innovative approach.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the importance of adaptability in difficult situations.
- Students will identify the moral of the story and relate it to real-life scenarios.
- Students will analyze character motivations and their significance to the plot.
- Students will discuss the role of wit in overcoming challenges.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the Opossum's strategy says about his character?
  2. How does the Snake's response reflect traditional thinking?
  3. Can you think of a time when you had to adapt to a challenging situation? What did you do?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Opossum of the Future"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for notes

✓ Original text available on the story page.