LESSON PLAN

The Peasant and the Apple Tree

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	45 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a short, funny story with moral about a similar theme of overlooked value to engage students. Ask students if they have ever had something they thought was useless turn out to be important.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Peasant and the Apple Tree" aloud. Pause at key moments to ask prediction questions about what the peasant might find and how the animals might react.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- In pairs, students will discuss the motivations of the peasant.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph on a personal experience where they discovered unexpected value in something they initially dismissed. They will share these reflections in small groups

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1. STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Peasant and the Apple Tree; Sometimes, what appears to be worthless may hold unexpected value, and self-interest can lead to a greater appreciation of the things we initially disregard.
- **Plot Summary**: A peasant decides to cut down an apple tree that he believes is worthless because it bears no fruit. However, as he begins to chop it down, he discovers a hidden beehive full of honey, leading him to reconsider the value of the tree and ultimately appreciate it for what it truly offers.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Peasant**: Represents self-interest and the tendency to overlook value in familiar things.
  - **The Apple Tree**: Symbolizes hidden potential and the importance of protecting what may seem unimportant.
  - **The Sparrows and Grasshoppers**: Serve as voices of reason and highlight the interconnectedness of nature.

2. LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and discuss its significance.

- Students will analyze the characters' motivations and how they contribute to the theme.
- Students will reflect on personal experiences where they discovered value in overlooked things.
- Students will explore the role of nature in the story and its metaphorical implications.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the peasant learned about the apple tree by the end of the story?
  2. How do the sparrows and grasshoppers help convey the moral of the story?
  3. Can you think of a time when you underestimated something or someone? What was the outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Peasant and the Apple Tree"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Sticky notes for reflections
  - Art supplies for extension activity

3. LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min)**: Begin with a short, funny story with moral about a similar theme of overlooked value to engage students. Ask students if they have ever had something they thought was useless turn out to be important.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min)**: Read "The Peasant and the Apple Tree" aloud. Pause at key moments to ask prediction questions

about what the peasant might find and how the animals might react.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min)**:
  - In pairs, students will discuss the motivations of the peasant.
  - Each pair will create a character map on a large sheet of paper showing how each character influences the story's moral.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min)**: Students will write a short paragraph on a personal experience where they discovered unexpected value in something they initially dismissed. They will share these reflections in small groups

✓ Original text available on the story page.