LESSON PLAN

The Raven and the Swan

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a discussion on the concept of beauty and how society often values certain traits. Ask students to share their thoughts on whether they believe one can change who they are fundamentally.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Raven and the Swan" aloud to the class. Pause at key points to ask students about their predictions and feelings regarding the characters' choices.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign them to discuss the motivations of the raven and the consequences of his actions. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection about a time they wanted to change something about themselves. Encourage them to consider if their desire was based on envy and how it affected their well-being.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz with multiple-choice questions about the story's moral and characters to assess understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Raven and the Swan; One cannot change their inherent nature by merely altering their environment or habits.
- **Plot Summary**: In this captivating moral story, a raven envies the beautiful white plumage of a swan. Believing that changing his surroundings will grant him the same beauty, the raven abandons his natural habitat, only to find that no amount of washing can change his true colors. Ultimately, he suffers from hunger and dies, illustrating the futility of trying to change one's nature.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Raven**: Represents envy and the desire for superficial change.
  - **The Swan**: Symbolizes natural beauty and the idea of being true to oneself.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of envy and the desire for change.
  - Students will relate the story to their own experiences and societal expectations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the raven's desire for the swan's beauty teach us about envy?
  2. How does the story illustrate the concept of inherent nature versus external change?
  3. Can you think of a time when you or someone else tried to change for superficial reasons? What was the outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Raven and the Swan."
  - Whiteboard and markers.
  - Paper and writing utensils for students.

✓ Original text available on the story page.