LESSON PLAN

The Sagacious Rat

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a quick discussion on the concept of flattery. Ask students if they have ever felt flattered and what the outcome was. Introduce the story and its moral theme.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Sagacious Rat" aloud or have students read it in pairs. Pause at key moments to discuss character actions and motivations. Encourage students to visualize the scenes.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, students will analyze the characters' decisions. Each group will discuss:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph reflecting on how the moral of the story can apply to their own lives. Encourage them to think of situations involving flattery or pride.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and provide feedback based on understanding of the moral lesson.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Sagacious Rat - The story illustrates that flattery can lead to one's downfall, as those who seek to appear important may unwittingly expose themselves to danger.
- **Plot Summary**: In this engaging moral tale, a rat, wary of a lurking cat, cleverly flatters a friend into leading the way to safety. The friend, pleased by the attention, steps out first, only to fall prey to the cat, while the sagacious rat escapes unscathed.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Rat**: Represents cunning and wisdom, showcasing how intelligence can help one evade danger.
  - **The Cat**: Symbolizes the lurking dangers that can exploit the weaknesses of others.
  - **The Friend**: Embodies the folly of seeking flattery and the perils that come with pride.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story regarding flattery and danger.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their consequences.
  - Students will identify the use of irony in the story.
  - Students will discuss real-life examples of similar moral lessons.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the rat's true intentions were in flattering his friend?
  2. How does the ending of the story illustrate the dangers of pride?
  3. Can you think of a time when flattery led to a negative outcome in your own life or in a story you know?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Sagacious Rat"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for student reflections
  - Optional: Multimedia resources about moral stories

✓ Original text available on the story page.