LESSON PLAN

The Salt Merchant and His Ass

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about the concept of deceit. Ask students if they've ever encountered situations where someone tried to trick them and what the outcome was.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Salt Merchant and His Ass" aloud to the class. Pause at key points to ask questions and ensure understanding. Discuss the initial situation and the characters' reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and have them create a character map highlighting the motivations and consequences of the peddler and the ass.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Regroup and have each group present their character maps. Discuss as a class how the moral of the story applies to their lives and what they learned about honesty and consequences.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write one sentence summarizing the moral of the story and how it relates to their own experiences.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Salt Merchant and His Ass; The moral of the story is that deceitful tactics can backfire, leading to greater problems than the original situation.
- **Plot Summary**: A peddler and his ass go to the seashore to buy salt. When the ass accidentally falls into a stream, the salt sack becomes lighter. The ass then tries to deceive his master by falling again, but this time the peddler buys sponges, which become heavier when soaked. The ass learns that deceit can lead to worse consequences.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Peddler**: Represents the hard-working individual who faces challenges with integrity.
  - **The Ass**: A symbol of foolishness and the dangers of attempting to deceive others for personal gain.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral lesson of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of deceitful behavior.
  - Students will connect the story's themes to real-life situations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What motivated the ass to deceive the peddler?
  2. How did the peddler's response to the ass's actions demonstrate wisdom?
  3. Can you think of a time when someone tried to deceive you and it backfired?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Salt Merchant and His Ass"
  - Chart paper and markers
  - Whiteboard and markers for discussion

✓ Original text available on the story page.