LESSON PLAN

The Self-Made Monkey

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a short discussion on what it means to be "self-made." Ask students if they know any famous self-made individuals and what it takes to achieve such status.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Self-Made Monkey" aloud. Encourage students to listen for key themes and character motivations. After reading, summarize the story together.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters' actions and motivations. Each group will identify one key lesson from the story and present it to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a brief reflection on a time they felt proud of their achievements. Encourage them to consider whether they were truly self-made or if others played a role in their success.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and evaluate students' understanding of the moral. Provide feedback on their insights and the depth of their analysis.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Self-Made Monkey; Moral: Claiming to be "self-made" may be less impressive than it seems, especially when compared to the natural talents and abilities of others.
- **Plot Summary**: A man of humble beginnings, proud of his self-made status, meets a monkey in the forest. The monkey challenges the man's claim by demonstrating his own self-sufficiency. The story highlights the absurdity of claiming self-made status when natural abilities are at play.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Man**: Represents individuals who take pride in self-made achievements, often overlooking the contributions of others.
  - **The Monkey**: Serves as a foil to the man, illustrating that self-made claims can be hollow when contrasted with genuine talent and effort.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the concept of self-made individuals versus those with innate abilities.
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of pride and self-identity.
  - Students will evaluate the significance of the characters in the story.
  - Students will relate the story to contemporary examples of self-made narratives.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of success and self-identity?
  2. How does the monkey's demonstration challenge the man's claim?
  3. Can someone truly be "self-made"? What factors contribute to success?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Self-Made Monkey"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking

✓ Original text available on the story page.