LESSON PLAN

The She Goats and Their Beards

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on what students think equality means. Show images of various animals and ask them to discuss if they think all animals are equal and why.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud or have students perform a dramatic reading in groups. Discuss key events and characters as they unfold.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character to analyze.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to reflect on the moral of the story. Have them write a short paragraph on how this moral applies to their own lives or current societal issues.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Students will share their reflections, and the teacher will assess understanding through their contributions to the discussion.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The She Goats and Their Beards; The pursuit of superficial equality does not change the intrinsic differences in abilities or merits.
- **Plot Summary**: In this tale, the She Goats request beards from Jupiter to match the He-Goats. Although they gain this superficial honor, Jupiter reminds the He-Goats that true equality is based on strength and courage, not mere appearances. The story highlights the folly of seeking equal status through external attributes.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **Jupiter**: The wise god who grants the beards but emphasizes the importance of inherent qualities over superficial appearances.
  - **He-Goats**: Represent the traditional views on gender roles and merit.
  - **She Goats**: Symbolize the desire for equality but also the misunderstanding of what true equality entails.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their significance in the plot.
  - Students will compare this story with other quick read stories with moral themes.
  - Students will discuss the implications of superficial equality in society today.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What does the story suggest about the nature of equality?
  - How do the characters' actions reflect their understanding of their worth?
  - Can you think of modern examples where superficial equality is pursued?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The She Goats and Their Beards"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Projector for visual aids (optional)
  - Pictures related to the story for visual engagement