LESSON PLAN

The Shepherd and the Dog

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a humorous anecdote about a pet protecting its owner, then introduce the story of "The Shepherd and the Dog" to draw connections to the theme of protection.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read the story aloud to the class. Ask students to visualize and imagine the scenes as the story unfolds. After reading, facilitate a brief group discussion about initial thoughts and reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Each group will discuss the motivations and actions of the shepherd and the dog. They will also explore how the characters contribute to the moral of the story. Groups will share their insights with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Encourage students to reflect individually on a time when they had to protect someone or something important to them. They will write a brief personal narrative and share with a partner.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Have students summarize the moral of the story in one sentence and share it with the class. Collect their written reflections for assessment.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title**: The Shepherd and the Dog
- **Moral/Theme**: The moral of the story is that one must be vigilant and protective against threats, as allowing harmful influences can endanger those we care for.
- **Plot Summary**: A shepherd is about to pen his sheep for the night when he unknowingly attempts to let a wolf into the fold. His loyal dog stops him, highlighting the importance of being aware of potential dangers to protect those we cherish.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Shepherd**: Represents authority and responsibility, tasked with the care of his flock.
  - **The Dog**: Symbolizes loyalty and vigilance, serving as the protector who recognizes the danger.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the significance of vigilance in protecting others.
  - Students will analyze the characters' roles and their contributions to the story's moral.
  - Students will discuss the implications of allowing harmful influences into their lives.
  - Students will connect the story to other well-known moral stories and identify common themes.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the dog symbolize in the story, and why is this important?
  2. How can the moral of this story apply to our everyday lives?
  3. Can you think of other famous moral stories that convey a similar message?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Shepherd and the Dog" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students