LESSON PLAN

The Spendthrift and the Swallow

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
4–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin by asking students if they have ever made a decision quickly that they later regretted. Share a brief anecdote to engage them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Spendthrift and the Swallow" aloud. As a class, discuss key points and themes, highlighting the impulsive actions of the spendthrift and the consequences that follow.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students create a cause-and-effect chart that outlines the spendthrift's decisions and their consequences. Encourage them to think critically about how each decision led to the next.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they acted hastily. How could they have applied the lessons from the story?

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz with multiple-choice questions focused on the moral of the story and the characters' actions.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Spendthrift and the Swallow - The moral is that hasty decisions based on incomplete information can lead to dire consequences.
- **Plot Summary**: A young spendthrift, having squandered all his wealth, mistakenly believes that the arrival of a single swallow signifies the arrival of spring. Acting hastily, he sells his last cloak only to be left unprotected when winter returns, leading to his lament over both his and the swallow's fate.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Spendthrift**: Represents impulsiveness and the consequences of poor decision-making.
  - **The Swallow**: Symbolizes the dangers of premature conclusions and the impact of one's actions on others.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will analyze the consequences of hasty decisions.
- Students will identify the moral theme of the story.
- Students will discuss how impulsiveness can affect not just oneself but also others.
- Students will relate the story's message to real-life situations.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the spendthrift could have done differently?
  2. How does the swallow's behavior affect the spendthrift's fate?
  3. Can you think of a time when you made a hasty decision? What was the outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Printed copies of the story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for reflection

✓ Original text available on the story page.