LESSON PLAN

The Stag at the Pool

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of vanity and superficiality. Ask students to share what they think makes someone truly valuable.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read *The Stag at the Pool* aloud. Pause at key moments to ask students how they think the stag feels and what they believe is happening.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students discuss the characters' actions and motivations. Each group can create a character map showing the stag's internal conflict and ultimate realization.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience that relates to the story's moral. Encourage them to consider what qualities they value in themselves and others.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and conduct a quick verbal assessment by asking volunteer students to share their insights.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Stag at the Pool - The story illustrates that true value lies in qualities we often overlook, while superficial attributes can lead to our downfall.
- **Plot Summary**: A stag, weary from the heat, admires his impressive horns in the reflection of a pool, while he despises his slender legs. When a lion appears and he flees, his antlers become entangled in the woods, leading to his capture. In his final moments, he realizes that he valued the wrong attributes.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Stag**: Represents vanity and misjudgment of true value.
  - **The Lion**: Symbolizes the dangers that come from superficiality and the consequences of being unprepared.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications.
- Students will analyze the characters' behaviors and motivations.
- Students will discuss how the themes relate to real-life situations.
- Students will reflect on personal attributes they value and those they might overlook.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What qualities do you think are most important in life, and why?
  2. How does the Stag's fate serve as a warning about valuing superficial attributes?
  3. Can you think of a time when you overlooked an important quality in someone or yourself?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Art supplies for extension activities (paper, colored pencils, etc.)
  - Projector for possible visual aids (short moral stories with pictures)

✓ Original text available on the story page.