LESSON PLAN

The Swallow and the Other Birds

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a humorous anecdote about ignoring a warning in everyday life, prompting students to share their own experiences.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud, emphasizing the Swallow's warning and the reactions of the other birds. Encourage students to follow along and visualize the scenes.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters and their decisions.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they ignored a warning and the outcome. Collect responses to share in a follow-up discussion.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz with multiple-choice questions about the story's characters, plot, and moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Swallow and the Other Birds; Moral: Take heed of warnings about potential dangers.
- **Plot summary**: In this humorous tale, a Swallow warns other birds about a Countryman sowing hemp seeds, which they ignore. As the hemp grows into cords and nets, the birds face dire consequences for not heeding the warning. The story highlights the importance of listening to advice about potential dangers.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Swallow**: Represents wisdom and foresight, urging caution.
  - **The Other Birds**: Symbolize ignorance and the consequences of neglecting warnings.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of ignoring warnings.

- Students will analyze the characters and their motivations.
- Students will explore the themes of foresight and consequences in the story.
- Students will discuss how humor can be used to relay serious messages in moral stories.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are some real-life situations where ignoring warnings can lead to negative outcomes?
  2. How does the use of humor in this story enhance its moral message?
  3. In what ways can we apply the lesson of this story to our everyday decisions?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of 'The Swallow and the Other Birds' story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.