LESSON PLAN

The Swallow the Serpent and the Court of Justice

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what justice means to students. Ask if they feel safe in their communities and what places they trust to protect them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story together as a class. Pause at key moments to discuss initial reactions and feelings about the events as they unfold.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters and their motivations. Have each group present their findings, focusing on the Swallow's plight and the symbolism of the Serpent.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they witnessed or experienced injustice. Encourage them to connect their experiences to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Summarize the lesson by asking students to share one new insight they gained about justice and injustice.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Swallow, the Serpent, and the Court of Justice - Even in a place meant to uphold justice, the innocent may still suffer injustice.
- **Plot Summary**: A Swallow builds her nest in a Court of Justice, believing it to be a safe haven. However, her seven young birds are devoured by a Serpent, leading the Swallow to lament that even in a place designed to protect rights, she has suffered a grave injustice.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Swallow**: Represents innocence and vulnerability in the face of injustice.
  - **The Serpent**: Symbolizes deceit and harm, showing that danger can lurk even in seemingly safe places.
  - **The Court of Justice**: Represents societal structures meant to uphold fairness, highlighting the irony of its failure.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson conveyed in the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their roles within the narrative.
  - Students will discuss the implications of injustice in their own lives.
  - Students will explore the story's relevance to modern society.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Swallow's experience teach us about trust and safety?
  2. How can we relate the themes of this story to current events or personal experiences?
  3. In what ways can individuals or communities advocate for justice when faced with injustice?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Swallow, the Serpent, and the Court of Justice"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils

✓ Original text available on the story page.