LESSON PLAN

The Tail of the Sphinx

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening hook

Begin with a brief discussion on how emotions can be expressed, asking students if they can think of times when they felt their emotions were visible to others.

15–20 min

Story exploration

Read "The Tail of the Sphinx" aloud to the class, encouraging students to pay attention to the dialogue and the characters' emotions. Discuss the plot and the characters' dynamics after reading.

15 min

Analysis exercises

Break students into small groups to analyze the characters and their motivations. Each group will share their findings about the Dog’s desires and the Tail’s wisdom.

10 min

Application/reflection

Have students write a short paragraph about a time they felt pressured to be something they are not and how they embraced their true selves instead.

5 min

Assessment strategy

Conclude the lesson by asking each student to share one key takeaway from the story and its moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Tail of the Sphinx; Embrace your true nature and limitations.
- **Plot summary**: In this entertaining moral story, a dog expresses his frustration with his tail for revealing his emotions. He wishes to be as impassive as the Sphinx, but the tail reminds him of the inherent qualities and limitations that define their respective natures. Through clever dialogue, the tale highlights the importance of self-acceptance.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Dog**: Represents individuals who aspire to qualities they do not possess and struggle with self-acceptance.
  - **The Tail**: Acts as a voice of reason, reminding the Dog of his true nature and limitations.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will analyze the characters and their motivations in the story.
- Students will identify the moral lesson conveyed through the narrative.
- Students will connect the story to other famous fables with moral lessons.
- Students will discuss the importance of self-acceptance in their own lives.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Dog's desire to be like the Sphinx reveal about human nature?
  2. How does the Tail's response reflect the theme of embracing one's true self?
  3. Can you think of other short bedtime stories with moral lessons that convey a similar message?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Tail of the Sphinx"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.