LESSON PLAN

The Thief and the Housedog

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–5	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about kindness and deception. Ask students if they have ever received a gift that felt suspicious to them and why.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Thief and the Housedog" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words and identify the main characters and events.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character (the thief or the housedog). Have them discuss the character's motivations and how they contribute to the story's moral. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they experienced or witnessed kindness that seemed to have a hidden motive. Encourage them to relate this to the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick formative assessment by asking students to share one lesson they learned from the story and how they might apply it in their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Thief and the Housedog; Beware of the motives behind seemingly kind gestures, as they may disguise ulterior intentions.
- **Plot summary**: In this entertaining moral story, a thief attempts to pacify a housedog with meat to avoid being detected while breaking into a home. However, the dog recognizes the thief's ulterior motives and remains vigilant, understanding that kindness can sometimes mask deceitful intentions.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Thief**: Represents deceit and the lengths one may go to for selfish gain.
  - **The Housedog**: Symbolizes vigilance and the wisdom to discern true intentions behind actions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications within the narrative.
  - Students will engage in discussions about trust and deception in relationships.
  - Students will articulate their thoughts on how kindness can sometimes have hidden motives.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences where they felt deceived or misled.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the thief hoped to achieve by giving the housedog meat?
  2. How does the housedog's reaction reflect his understanding of the situation?
  3. Can you think of a time when someone’s kind gesture had ulterior motives? How did that make you feel?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Thief and the Housedog"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.