LESSON PLAN

The Tortoise and the Eagle

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–4	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin by asking students if they have ever wanted to do something they found difficult. Share a brief personal example to engage them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read 'The Tortoise and the Eagle' aloud. Pause at key moments to ask students what they think will happen next and how the characters might feel.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters' motivations and the consequences of their actions. Ask each group to summarize the moral of the story in their own words.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they aimed for something beyond their reach. Encourage them to relate it to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect and review the students' reflections to assess their understanding of the story's moral. Provide feedback based on their insights.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Tortoise and the Eagle; The moral of the story is that aspiring for things beyond one's natural abilities can lead to disastrous consequences.
- **Plot Summary**: A Tortoise, dissatisfied with her inability to fly, seeks help from an Eagle. When the Eagle agrees to teach her at a price, he takes her high into the sky but ultimately releases her, leading to her tragic fall. In her final moments, the Tortoise realizes the folly of her ambitions.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Tortoise**: Represents those who desire to achieve more than their natural abilities allow, highlighting the dangers of ambition without self-awareness.
  - **Eagle**: Symbolizes power and the potential for greatness, but also the indifference to the consequences of taking advantage of the vulnerable.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the key elements of the story.
  - Students will analyze the moral lesson conveyed through the characters' actions.
  - Students will discuss how the story relates to real-life scenarios of ambition and self-awareness.
  - Students will create their own short story with a moral similar to that of 'The Tortoise and the Eagle'.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the Tortoise learns from her experience?
  2. How does the story reflect the idea of knowing one's limits?
  3. Can you think of a situation where someone aspired for something beyond their abilities? What happened?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of 'The Tortoise and the Eagle' story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students