LESSON PLAN

The Trees Under the Protection of the Gods

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–8	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a thought-provoking question: "What do you value more: how something looks or how useful it is?" Allow students to share their thoughts briefly.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story together as a class. Pause at key moments to discuss character actions and motivations, ensuring students understand the plot and its significance.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters and their choices. Each group will present their findings on how these choices reflect the story's moral.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a brief reflection on a time when they chose usefulness over appearance in their own lives.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and evaluate students' understanding based on their ability to articulate the moral lesson and relate it to personal experiences.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Trees Under the Protection of the Gods; The true value of actions lies in their usefulness rather than in their outward glory or appearance.
- **Plot Summary**: In an ancient legend, the gods protect certain trees that do not bear fruit, leading to a discussion among them about the nature of value and usefulness. Jupiter explains that their choice is to avoid seeking honor for fruit, while Minerva argues for the importance of usefulness, emphasizing that true worth is found in what is beneficial rather than merely glorious.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Jupiter**: Represents wisdom and the importance of humble actions.
  - **Minerva**: Embodies the pursuit of knowledge and challenges the status quo, highlighting the value of usefulness over appearance.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications.
  - Students will discuss the relevance of the story's themes to modern life.
  - Students will create their own short stories with moral lessons reflecting the themes discussed.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think Jupiter meant when he said that glory is vain without usefulness?
  2. How can we apply the moral of this story to our daily actions and decisions?
  3. Do you think Minerva’s argument about the olive tree is valid? Why or why not?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Trees Under the Protection of the Gods"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.