LESSON PLAN

The Two Travelers and the Axe

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
2–6	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a question: "Have you ever found something that didn't belong to you? What did you do?" Encourage a brief discussion to engage students with the theme of ownership and responsibility.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Two Travelers and the Axe" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the key events and discuss the characters' motives and decisions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character from the story. They will analyze their character’s actions and discuss whether those actions were fair or selfish, preparing to share with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on a personal experience where they had to share responsibility. Encourage them to consider how the moral of the story relates to their experience.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick class discussion where students share their reflections and insights. Use their contributions to gauge understanding of the moral and its implications.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Two Travelers and the Axe; The moral is that individuals should take equal responsibility for both rewards and consequences in any shared situation.
- **Plot summary**: Two men on a journey come across an axe. One claims ownership, but when they are pursued by the axe's rightful owner, the other reminds him to take responsibility for his earlier statement. This tale illustrates the importance of accountability in shared circumstances.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Traveler 1**: Represents the tendency to claim rewards alone, showcasing selfishness.
  - **Traveler 2**: Embodies fairness and accountability, emphasizing the need for shared responsibility.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will be able to summarize the story and its key events.
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the characters' actions.
  - Students will discuss the relevance of shared responsibility in their own lives.
  - Students will create their own short moral story inspired by "The Two Travelers and the Axe".
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. How do the actions of the two travelers reflect on our own behavior in group situations?
  2. Can you think of a time when you had to share responsibility for a decision? What was the outcome?
  3. Why is it important to acknowledge both rewards and consequences in a shared experience?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Two Travelers and the Axe"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for story creation

✓ Original text available on the story page.