

**Lesson Plan for:                      The Mouse and the Elephant**

**Type of story:**                      Folktale

**Objectives:**

- The students will be able to retell this story to a classmate or in front of the class.
- The students will be able to recall the sequence of events in the story.
- The students will practice their comprehension in understanding “cause and effect” within the story. (Why did the animals really run away from the mouse – versus why mouse *thought* they ran away.)
- The students will improve in using comparative and superlative adjectives as they compare the sizes of the animals in the story.

- Procedure:**
1. Tell the story of “The Mouse and the Elephant” to the students.
  2. Check the students’ comprehension of the story by asking questions about it. Re-tell the story, or have the students read the story a second time.
  3. Discuss the sequence of events in the story. Discuss the interaction of the animals. Why did mouse think each animal left? Why did they really leave?
  4. Compare the sizes of the animals using size words like: big, bigger, biggest; tall taller, tallest; wide, wider, widest; large, larger, largest. Encourage the students to make oral statements comparing the animal sizes. Add new animals that were not in the story to your practice.
  5. This story is a good story to use for a discussion about discouraging bullying.
  6. Practice fact versus fiction. Discuss – Are elephants really afraid of mice.

**Social Studies Extensions** – This story takes place in a region that has elephants. Research to find where elephants live in the wild around earth. Talk about why elephants are endangered.

**Science Extension** – Discuss the uses of an elephant’s trunk. How does the elephant use the trunk to eat? Breathe? Drink? Work?

**Language Arts/Reading Extension** – Read and discuss the famous poem – “The Blind Men and the Elephant.” Dr. Lockett adapted it into a story. Go to [www.mikelockett.com](http://www.mikelockett.com) to read it.

**Language Arts/Reading Extension** – Read the famous story The Elephant’s Child by Kipling.

**Language Arts/Writing Extension** – Add a new animal into the sequence of the story. What would the animal be? Write a paragraph that shows its interactions with the mouse.

**Creative Dramatics** – Ask the students to act out the story. Place one or more students in charge of making sound effects (off stage) that add to the drama of the story. Change the story to add a new animal. Make the actions fit with the rest of the story.

**Art** – Talk about sculptures. Play a game called “Statues.” Have two students try to stand perfectly still like statues that represent their favorite part of the story. Let the rest of the class try to guess the part of the story the statue represents.

**Music Extension** – Play the music “Elephant Walk.” Have the students pretend to walk like elephants. Have the students create a new song called “Mouse Walk.”