



English // Junior high school

King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

Fables about King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

lessons 2-3

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Rationale

To engage students with English texts that relate to personal and historical perspectives.

Operative Goals

- a. The literary genre of fables and theme-related vocabulary
- b. Access to information from written texts: answering content related questions
- c. Moral of the story: No one is too good to need help, and no one is too small to give it



Key concepts/terms covered

- fable
- moral of the story
- summarizing
- graphic organizer

Sources (bibliography)

Eric Cohen – 'More Unseens 3' (used with permission)

Lesson procedure

- A. Pre-reading and vocabulary learning about the topic
- B. Write down new information (a word bank is included)
- C. Pre-teaching vocabulary for the second story
- D. Read the second story and summarize it using a graphic organizer
- E. Answer reading comprehension questions





A. Pre-reading and vocabulary learning about the topic

Names: _____

1. Translate these words together with a partner:

advisor -	nectar -
disappointed -	powerful -
embarrass -	real flower -
fake flowers -	to solve riddles -
feast -	to sting -
guard(s) -	whispered -

2. Organize the words according to categories:

Noun	Adjective	Verb





3. Write what you think the story will be about based on the words you just defined.

B. Reading the story and writing down new information

King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

Have you heard of King Solomon or the Queen of Sheba? Do you know who they were and where they lived? In the following table indicate yes/no/I don't know.



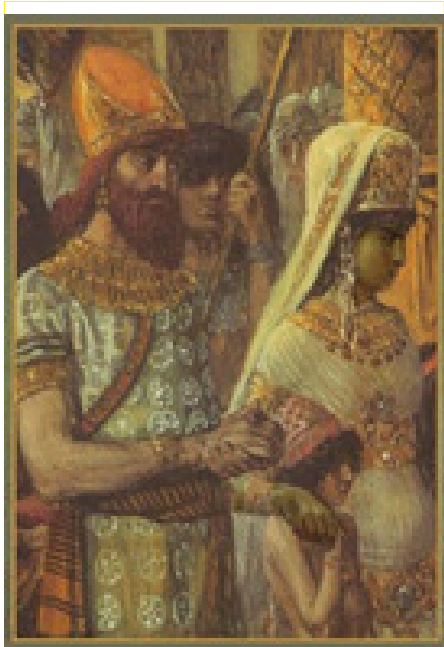


	Yes	No	I don't know
1. King Solomon was the king of Sheba.			
2. He was able to communicate with animals.			
3. The Queen of Sheba was very beautiful.			
4. The Queen sent a note to King Solomon.			
5. The Queen of Sheba lived in Ethiopia.			
6. The Queen of Sheba wanted to meet King Solomon.			
7. King Solomon decided to visit Ethiopia.			

Now read this short passage and check your answers.

1. What new information did you learn about King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba?
2. Mark it in the text with a colored marker / highlighter.





The Bible states that King Solomon was the greatest king of Israel because of the great wisdom that God gave him. It is said that King Solomon knew the languages of all the animals and ruled over them. He sent birds to explore the world and tell him of what they saw. One day, a bird came and told him of an amazing sight: a great city far away in Ethiopia, ruled by a woman, the Queen of Sheba, who was not only beautiful but also wise. King Solomon wrote a message on a scroll, tied it to the leg of the bird, and sent it to the Queen.

One morning in Ethiopia, the Queen of Sheba was climbing up the stairs when suddenly a bird flew to her with a scroll tied to its foot. She opened it and read about this great and wise king. The Queen very much wanted to know more about King Solomon so she said to herself, "I must go and see this great king."

It took her seven years to get there, but when she finally met King Solomon he was far greater than she had expected. The Queen was impressed with the King's wisdom as he was with her beauty. The Queen therefore decided to learn about King Solomon's wisdom.

Word Bank

wisdom חכמה

amazing מדהים

rule (v) שלט

expected ציפה

impressed הרשים

scroll קלף



At the end of this passage we read that the Queen of Sheba wanted to learn about King Solomon's wisdom. You are going to read the fable "The King and the Bee," which tells us of King Solomon's wisdom.





C. Pre-teaching vocabulary (for the second story)

Read the following sentences to learn the new words.

By matching the Hebrew words to the English words in the table below, you will learn the meaning of the new vocabulary.

1. The King had an **advisor** to help him make decisions.
2. I was **disappointed** because my friend didn't visit me yesterday.
3. Speak kindly to your friends, otherwise you might **embarrass** them.
4. I don't have to water these flowers, they aren't **real**. They are made of silk. They are **fake flowers**.
5. There is a big **feast** at the palace. Everyone is invited to dinner.
6. The **guards** always stand at the gates of the palace. They don't let strangers come in.
7. Real flowers have **nectar**. The bees love to drink it.
8. He is a **powerful** person. He has great influence over many people's lives.
9. A wise man can **solve** many **riddles**.
10. Do not catch that bee. If you do, it may **sting** you.





advisor	1. שומר (שומרים)
disappointed	2. לעקוץ
embarrass	3. לחש
fake flowers	4. חזק (רב עצמה)
feast	5. מביך
guard(s)	6. לפתור חידות, תעלומות
nectar	7. משתה, סעודה
powerful	8. פרחים לא אמתיים
real flower	9. פרח אמיתי
solve riddles	10. צוף
to sting	11. מאוכזב/ת
whispered	12. יועץ

Before reading the fable (אגדה), look at the following questions. The answers to these questions will give you a summary of the text. Write your summary by using the graphic organizer below.

Why did the Bee ask King Solomon to save him?

Who wanted to show everyone that King Solomon was not wise?

What happened on the day of the feast?

There were 99 of them. What were they?

There was only one. What was it?

How did King Solomon prove his wisdom to the Queen of Sheba?

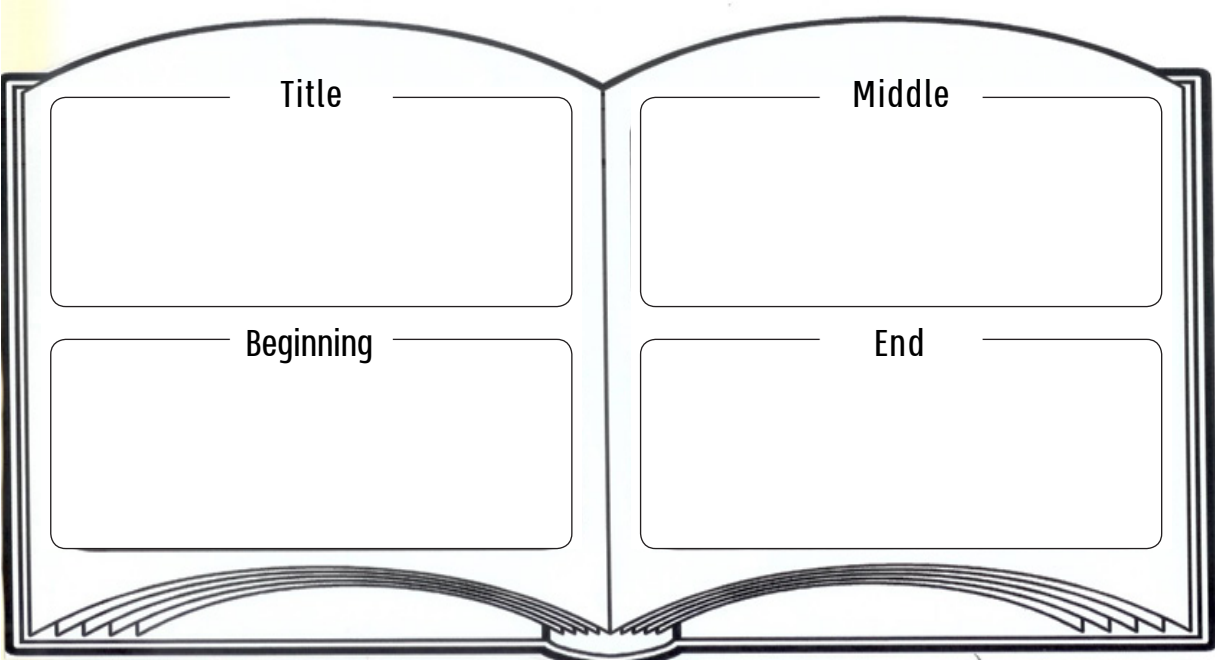




D. Read the second story and summarize it using a graphic organizer

Graphic Organizer

Summarize the fable in your words by completing the diagram below:





The King and the Bee

5 One day a bee flew into King Solomon's bedroom. His guards did not want the bee to sting the king, so they tried to kill it before it reached the king. The bee flew away from them and landed on the king's ear.
10 "O King," it whispered, "let me live today that I might serve you tomorrow." The king smiled to think that this tiny bee could ever hope to
15 serve a powerful king.



One day, the beautiful, rich and powerful Queen of Sheba came to visit King Solomon. She was jealous of the king and wanted to embarrass him before his own people. For days she did her best to show that King Solomon was not really wise. She asked him to solve riddles, but he answered them all. On the last day of the queen's visit, the king
20 decided to invite kings and queens from all over the world to his palace for a feast. The Queen of Sheba knew that it was her last chance to prove that the king was foolish.

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She asked her advisors to pick one perfect flower from the garden. She then ordered the artists to make 99 false flowers which were exactly like the fresh one. That evening, after the meal, the queen said: "O King, my artists want you to judge their
25 work. Among these flowers, only one comes from your garden. Find it."

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At first King Solomon was sure he would easily find the real flower, but all the flowers he smelled and felt the same. Suddenly he felt something on his hand. It was the little bee. It had come to help. It flew low over the flowers and then crawled into the one flower that had *nectar* inside. The king picked up the real flower and brought it to the
30 Queen of Sheba. The Queen of Sheba left the palace very disappointed. The king thought to himself: "No one is so great that he needs no help, and no one is so small that he cannot give it."





E. Answer reading comprehension questions

Let us learn more about the fable by completing the following tasks:

A fable is a story that usually has animal characters that behave like humans. The characters may be wise or foolish. A fable describes a problem that the characters try to solve. The end of the fable shows the moral or lesson to be learned from the story.

What animal(s) or living creatures are mentioned in this story?

What is the problem that the King has to solve?

What is the lesson learned in this fable? (Quote from the fable or write in your own words.)

Who is the “great one” and who is the “small one”?

Do you think King Solomon could have found the “real” flower without the help of the bee?





In your own words, explain what King Solomon learned from the bee:

Write names of 3 other fables you know. Write the lessons you learned from these fables.

