

**State of Israel  
Ministry of Education  
English Inspectorate**

**Unit Planner**

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<b>Name of School:</b> Branco Weiss Eitan Gezer Regional Council	<b>Text:</b>	<b>Grade taught:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12
<b>Name of Literary Text:</b> Fable / Ralph Waldo Emerson	<b>Genre:</b> poem	<b>Level:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F
<b>Targeted Higher-Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) for Analysis and Interpretation to be taught explicitly</b>	<b>Targeted HOTS to be Spiraled</b>	
1. Distinguishing Different Perspectives		
<b>Relevant Literary Terms to be Taught</b>		
personification, fable		
<b>Targeted Benchmarks in the Domain of Appreciation of Literature and Culture</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognize the use of literary techniques in a poem <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpret literary texts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are aware of the author's background and the cultural, historical and/or social themes in literary texts or other cultural products <input type="checkbox"/> Are aware of how cultural practices are reflected in various literary and cultural products		

## Unit Planner

Key Component	Activity/ies	List of attached worksheets (when used)
Pre Reading	See page 4	
Basic Understanding	See page 5	
Analysis and Interpretation - HOTS	See page 6	
Analysis and Interpretation - Other questions	See page 7	
Bridging Text and Context	See page 8	
Post Reading	See page 9	
Poem Pouch	See page 10	
Summative Assessment	See pp. 11-12	
Answer Key to unit components	See page 13	
Answer key - Summative Assessment	See pp. 14-15	
Reflection	See p. 16	

## Fable by Ralph Waldo Emerson

The mountain and the squirrel\*  
Had a quarrel,  
And the former called the latter, "little prig\*\*":  
Bun replied,  
You are doubtless very big,  
But all sorts of things and weather  
Must be taken in together  
To make up a year,  
And a sphere.  
And I think it no disgrace  
To occupy my place.  
If I'm not so large as you,  
You are not so small as I,  
And not half so spry\*\*\*:  
I'll not deny you make  
A very pretty squirrel track;  
Talents differ; all is well and wisely put;  
If I cannot carry forests on my back,  
Neither can you crack a nut.

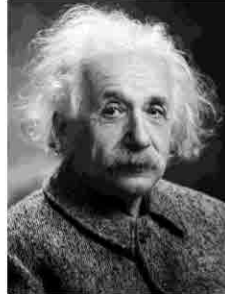
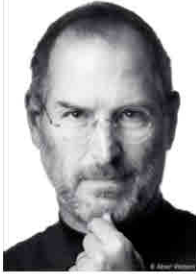
\* סנאי

\*\* מתחסד

\*\*\* פעלתן

## Pre Reading

- A. Look at the pictures of the following people. Who do you think is more important? Why?



- B. What makes a person important? List the traits that in your opinion are needed to make a person important.
- C. Share your list with your classmates. What conclusion can you draw?

## Basic Understanding

### Vocabulary Practice

#### A. Circle the correct answer

1. If someone denies they did something, they **admit** / **don't admit** they did it.
2. If someone has many talents, they **aren't skillful** / **are naturally gifted**.
3. If my musical taste differs from yours, it is **the same as** / **different from** yours.
4. If two people have a quarrel, they have **a nice conversation** / **a fight**.
5. If something someone did is a disgrace, it makes them feel **shameful** / **proud of themselves**.
6. If someone occupies a central position in a bank, **they have** / **don't have** a good job.

#### B. Replace the underlined word or phrase with a word or phrase from the list. Make changes if necessary.

talents	replied	no disgrace	former	occupy	latter
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1. The mountain and the squirrel had an argument and the first called the second stupid.
2. The squirrel answered very wisely.
3. The squirrel told the mountain it wasn't a shame to be who he was.
4. Poets hold a special position in our society.
5. A person needs different skills to succeed in life.

## Understanding The Poem

#### A. Answer the following questions.

1. What did the mountain call the squirrel?
2. Which adjectives did the squirrel use to describe the mountain?
3. What can the mountain do that the squirrel can't?
4. What can the squirrel do that the mountain can't?

## Analysis and Interpretation

### HOTS – Distinguishing Different Perspectives

Look at the picture. How do you think each person listed below will react?



1. a bride who's about to be married
2. a farmer
3. a TV weather person
4. a teenager, on his way for another school day

**With a partner, discuss the different reactions and present the class with your conclusions in any way you see fit.**

**The following vocabulary may help you:**

Distinguish	it depends (on)	perspective	point of view	perceive
recognize	identify	view	notice	opinion

**Answer the questions using the HOTS "Distinguishing Different Perspectives".**

1. How does the mountain perceive the squirrel?
2. How does the squirrel perceive the mountain?
3. Whose perspective do you agree with? Explain

**When do we use this HOTS? Discuss examples of how important this "HOTS" is to our lives.**

**Read the definitions of the literary terms and answer the questions that follow.**

**personification**

Attributing the qualities of a person to something that isn't human or, in some cases, to something that isn't even alive.

**fable**

a short tale to teach a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters.

1. Give TWO examples of personification in the poem and explain why you think the poet used this method.
2. In your opinion, what is the moral lesson learned from the poem "Fable"?

## **Bridging Text and Context**

**The following quote is taken from Ralph Waldo Emerson's writings and reflects his belief that each human soul possesses within itself the means to all knowledge.**

**Read the quote and answer the question that follows.**



**“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”**

1. What's the connection between the quote and the poem "Fable"?



## Post Reading

Complete one of the following tasks.

1. Write a fable which reflects the themes of the poem.
2. Find a fable which has similar themes to those of the poem. Write it in your own words and explain its connection to the poem.
3. Write a list of TEN words related to the themes of the poem. Create a word cloud using the app. WORD CLOUDS. Or any other similar app.
4. Choose the TEN words you find most important in the poem. Create a word cloud and explain your choices.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mvtrail.wordclouds>



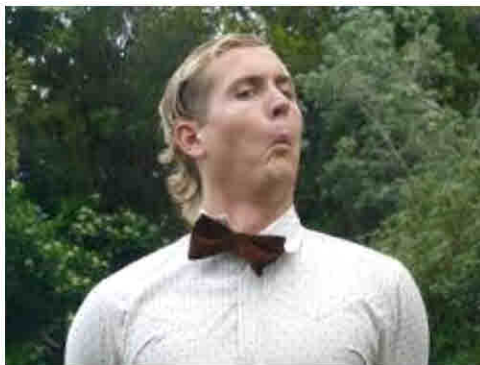
## Poem Pouch

For the pre reading component:

1. Pairs of big vs. small – pictures of a lion and mouse, a giant and dwarf, a tree and flower etc...

For the poem:

1. A stuffed squirrel and a picture of the Himalaya.
2. A short clip of a boxing match / a picture of such a match.
3. A picture of "a prig"



4. A calendar to represent a year
5. A globe to represent a sphere
6. A short, funny video clip of a super hyper, over active animal / baby
7. A picture of Atlas carrying the globe on his shoulder and a mountain covered with forestry. (to demonstrate "carry forests on my back")
8. A picture of a narrow path in the forest.
9. A short clip of a squirrel cracking a walnut -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixtO-QuMuzQ>

## Summative Assessment

### "Fable" / Ralph Waldo Emerson

The following LOTS questions are worth 5pts. Each

1. The mountain thinks the squirrel is
  - a. extremely generous
  - b. very understanding
  - c. unbelievably arrogant
  - d. truly honest
  
2. According to the squirrel, what can the mountain do that he can't? Name TWO things.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What can the squirrel do that the mountain can't? Name One thing.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The squirrel compares the mountain to other natural phenomena to enhance his greatness. What are these phenomena? Name TWO.

The following HOTS questions are worth 10pts. Each

5. The mountain calls the squirrel "little prig". Does the squirrel find it offensive? Explain and support your answer with evidence from the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Why did the poet choose to write his poem in a form of a fable?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What kind of moral lesson does this poem teach us? Explain with reference to the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following extended HOTS questions are worth 15pts. Each

1. Why does the mountain call the squirrel "little prig"?

Thinking skill: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How is the main theme of the poem reflected in the squirrel's reply?

Thinking skill: \_\_\_\_\_

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The following Bridging question is worth 20pts.

3. Make a connection between the following quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson and the poem studied.

**“It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.”**

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GOOD LUCK

## **Answer Key to unit components**

### **Analysis and Interpretation – HOTS**

1. From the mountain's point of view the squirrel is perceived as a small, self righteous creature who dares arguing with and preaching to a mighty mountain like himself.
2. The squirrel's perspective of the mountain is more respectful, and he indeed recognizes his greatness, "you are doubtless very big" but claims that the mountain shouldn't let his size overshadow his judgment of others.
3. I agree with the squirrel point of view. In my opinion, you cannot hold such a condescending view point towards others because they too have their own wonderful characteristics, such as you might never have; or in the squirrel's words: "If I cannot carry forests on my back, Neither can you crack a nut"

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

1. "had a quarrel" , "Bun replied". The reason the poet used the method of personification is to make his ideas more powerful. In other words, he used the squirrel and the mountain in order to convey the notion of an asymmetric human quarrel.
2. The moral lesson learned is that all people must be treated equally even if they aren't equal. According to the poet it doesn't matter whether you are big or small because each of us possesses their own special qualities.

### **Bridging Text and Context**

1. The poem "Fable" is about a quarrel between a mighty mountain and a tiny mouse, in which the mountain cannot grasp how such a small creature challenges his greatness and calls him "little prig". The squirrel argues for his right to be who he is and not who the mountain thinks he is. He claims that it's "no disgrace to occupy (his) place" and explains to the mountain that "talents differ"... and that though he " cannot carry forests on (his) back, Neither can (the mountain) crack a nut". The quote reflects the point of view of the poet who wants us to be true to who we are and to not be afraid to express our thoughts freely, regardless of what or who we face.

## Answer Key - Summative Assessment

1. The mountain thinks the squirrel is  
e. unbelievably arrogant
2. According to the squirrel, what can the mountain do that he can't? Name TWO things.  
**Carry forests on his back; make a very pretty squirrel track**
3. What can the squirrel do that the mountain can't? Name ONE thing.  
**Crack a nut**
4. The squirrel compares the mountain to other natural phenomena to enhance his greatness. What are these phenomena? Name TWO.

**A year, a sphere and weather**

The following HOTS questions are worth 10pts. Each

5. The mountain calls the squirrel "little prig". Does the squirrel find it offensive? Explain and support your answer with evidence from the text.  
**No, he doesn't find it offensive. I know that by the way he answers the mountain telling him that even a small creature like himself has talents that the mountain himself doesn't have.**
6. Why did the poet choose to write his poem in a form of a fable?  
**The poet chose this form because it allows the use of personification, which is attributing human traits to non human things. This way he could criticize human behavior without offending anybody.**
7. What kind of moral lesson does this poem teach us? Explain with reference to the text.  
**The moral lesson learned is that all people must be treated equally even if they aren't equal. According to the poet it doesn't matter whether you are big or small because each of us possesses their own special qualities.**

The following extended HOTS questions are worth 15pts. Each

8. Why does the mountain call the squirrel "little prig"?

Thinking skill: **Distinguishing different perspectives**

**Because from the mountain's point of view the squirrel is a small creature and that for itself is a good enough reason why he shouldn't be quarreling with a mighty entity like himself.**

9. How is the main theme of the poem reflected in the squirrel's reply?

Thinking skill: **Inferring**

**From the squirrel's reply I infer that the main theme of the poem is being true to and taking pride of who we are. The squirrel explains that we shouldn't be intimidated by the greatness of others. We can be respectful towards them and recognize their greatness, the way the squirrel did – "you are doubtless very big" - but we must always remember that "it (is) no disgrace to occupy (our) place".**

The following Bridging question is worth 20pts.

10. Make a connection between the following quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson and the poem studied.

"It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

**The poem "Fable" is about a quarrel between a mighty mountain and a tiny mouse, in which the mountain cannot grasp how such a small creature challenges his greatness and thus calls him "little prig". The squirrel argues for his right to be judged for his talents not for his size. That means that the squirrel doesn't live "after the world's opinion" but rather "lives after his own (opinion)" even when quarreling with a mighty mountain. In the light of the quote, the fact that the squirrel isn't afraid to express his thoughts freely is what makes him great.**