

## LESSONS PLANS: AGE 5-7

**Lesson Title:** In the deep dark woods!

**Resources:** The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson (audio or hard copy)  
Setting and Character work sheet.

### Lesson Overview

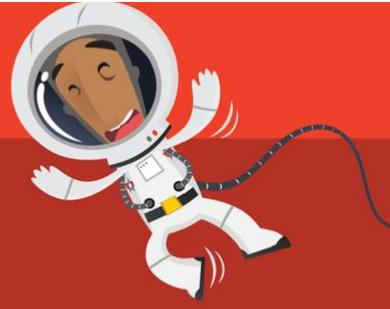
In this lesson, students will listen to audio book of 'The Gruffalo' or be read the hard copy and engage in discussion and activities around the setting and the characters.

In response to the story students will complete activities that relate to the setting and characters.

### Aims and Objectives

Students will:

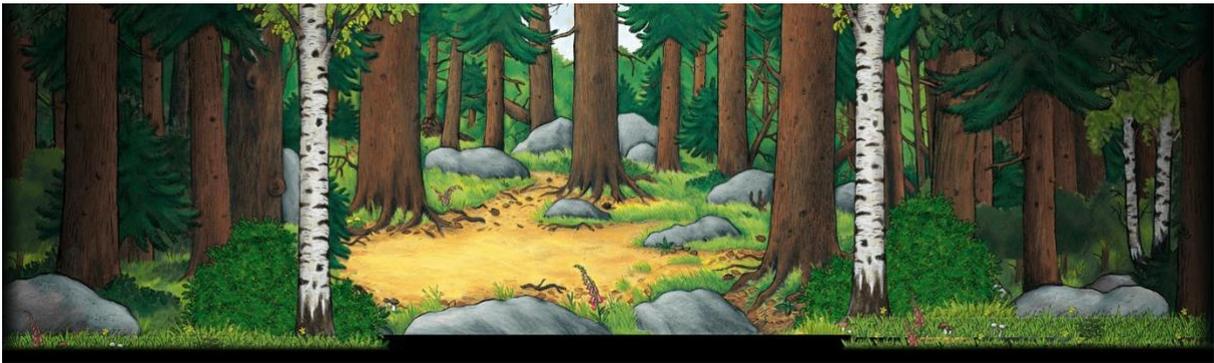
- Listen to the story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson.
- Develop prediction skills.
- Identify the characters and setting of the story.
- Demonstrate their understanding of beginning, middle and end through role play.



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### Lesson Introduction

1. Show students the cover of 'The Gruffalo' or the first page.

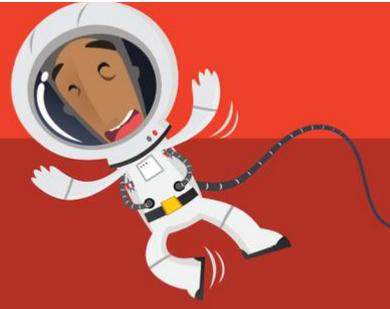


Have a class discussion of where the story will take place. Emphasise that we call this the setting of the story. (If no-one suggests the woods, say this is the deep, dark woods where the story is set).

2. You could also discuss what animals might live in the woods.
3. Share with students the aim of the lesson. (To identify the setting and characters of the story).

### Main Teaching

4. Read the story to the students, stop before each new character is introduced and have students predict what animal will come next. If a hard copy version is not available, use the audio version.
5. After the story has been read, have students work in small groups to sequence events in the story. Focus on beginning, middle and end. *Provide each group with pictures of the characters from the story (mouse, Gruffalo, owl, snake, and fox).*



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### Plenary

6. Have students complete a worksheet to consolidate student learning of characters, setting, and beginning, middle and end. See resources.
7. After reading the story a few times with the students, have students in groups of 5 role play the story and perform to class. *A great addition is to have students create character masks to help their performance.*

### Further Learning

Visit the Gruffalo website. Here you will be able to explore the deep, dark woods and listen to the Gruffalo song. Online interactive games for students to play.

<https://www.gruffalo.com/>

Watch 'The Gruffalo' with your class. After viewing, as a class you can do a comparison with the video to the book.

Encourage students to read for the MS Readathon. Ask students about their favourite stories and to re-read them. Read a friend's favourite story.