Reading lesson plan template

Text / pages		**Date**	
Grade / group		**Minutes**	
Focus skill or strategy		**Standard (verify locally)**	

Learning target
I can... (skill applied to this text)

Stage	Min	Teacher	Students	Questions / evidence
Before reading Purpose, vocabulary, prior knowledge				
During reading Stopping points and strategy use				
After reading Discussion and written response				

Vocabulary to teach	Text-dependent questions

Writing about reading
Prompt and what a strong answer includes

Small-group or conferring notes

Reading lesson plan example: Grade 4 theme

Illustrative 45-minute lesson using "The Ant and the Grasshopper", an Aesop fable in the public domain.

Text / pages	"The Ant and the Grasshopper" (Aesop)	**Minutes**	45
Grade / group	Grade 4, whole class	**Focus skill**	Determining a theme from details
Standard (verify locally)	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2: determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text	**Materials**	Fable copies, theme chart, sticky notes

Learning target
I can state a theme of a fable and support it with two details from the text.

Stage	Min	Teacher	Students	Questions / evidence
Before	8	Explain that a theme is a lesson or message, not the topic. Contrast "summer" (topic) with "plan ahead" (theme).	Sort four cards into topic or theme.	Card sort checked in pairs.
During	15	Read aloud; stop at the end of summer and again when winter comes.	Mark what each character does and what happens to him with sticky notes.	"What does the ant do in summer? What happens in winter?"
After	22	Model one theme statement with evidence. Then students write their own.	Write: "A theme is... I know because..." with two details.	Collected; check for a message (not a topic) and two details.

Vocabulary	Text-dependent questions
fable, moral, theme, character, store (food)	Why does the ant work during summer? What does the grasshopper do while the ant works? What happens when winter comes? What message do these events teach?

Strong answer includes
A message that applies beyond the story (for example, "It is wise to prepare today for what you will need later"), one detail about the ant storing food, one detail about the grasshopper in winter.

Original Draft My Lesson layout, free to use and adapt. Standards in the examples are cited for US schools that use them; check your own state or district framework before teaching.