LESSON PLAN

A Call to Quit

GRADES
9+

READING LEVEL
5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** A Call to Quit; The story highlights that unconventional methods may attract attention, but true engagement and respect from a community are built on substance rather than spectacle.
- **Plot Summary:** In an effort to attract more attendees and end the monotony in his sermons, a Minister performs an outrageous stunt by walking on his hands during a service. Initially believing this will increase his congregation's interest, he soon learns that superficial actions cannot replace genuine connection and respect.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **The Minister:** Represents the struggle between tradition and the desire for change. His actions reflect a misguided attempt to engage his audience.
  - **The Pillars of the Church:** Symbolize the community's expectations and the importance of substance over spectacle.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral lesson that genuine engagement is more important than showmanship.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and decisions in the story.
  - Students will discuss the implications of the Minister's actions on community respect.
  - Students will relate the story to other childhood stories with moral lessons.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What motivated the Minister to perform such a stunt during his sermon?
  2. How did the community's response reflect their values?
  3. Can you think of a time when superficial actions didn't lead to the desired outcome?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of "A Call to Quit"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Reflection journals

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
  - Begin with a brief discussion about attention-seeking behavior. Ask students if they have experienced or witnessed situations where someone resorted to extremes to gain attention.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**

- Read "A Call to Quit" aloud to the class. After reading, encourage students to express their initial reactions to the Minister's actions.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
  - Divide students into small groups and assign each group a key character. Each group will analyze their character's motivations and the consequences of their actions, relating it to lessons from moral stories.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
  - Have students write a short reflection in their journals about a personal experience where they learned the value of substance over showmanship.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
  - Conduct a quick class discussion to gauge students' understanding of the moral. Ask them to summarize the lesson in one sentence.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  1. Create a poster illustrating the moral of the story and how it relates to other very short moral stories.
  2. Write a short story or skit that explores a similar theme of substance versus spectacle.
- **Diff**

✓ Original text available on the story page.