LESSON PLAN

A Fatal Disorder

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	45 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking quote about truth and honesty. Ask students to share their thoughts and experiences related to the discomfort that can arise from being honest.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "A Fatal Disorder" aloud as a class. Pause to discuss key moments and character motivations. Encourage students to note their reactions to the Dying Man's admission.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each a key character from the story. Have them analyze their character's perspective on truth and violence, and prepare to share their insights with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students individually reflect in their notebooks on a time when they faced a moral dilemma involving honesty. Prompt them to consider how they navigated that situation and what they learned.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: "A Fatal Disorder" - The moral of the story is that true accountability and honesty can be dangerously uncomfortable, especially when confronting one's own role in violence and conflict.
- **Plot Summary**: In this gripping short story, a dying man reveals the truth about his actions leading to his fatal injury. Despite pressure from law officials to conform to a narrative of self-defense, he bravely acknowledges his role as the aggressor, challenging the expectations of those around him. His honesty becomes a source of discomfort for the authorities.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **Dying Man**: Represents the struggle for truth and accountability, showcasing the impact of violence and the complexity of human interactions.
  - **District Attorney**: Symbolizes the legal system's tendency to manipulate narratives, emphasizing the challenges of confronting uncomfortable truths.
  - **Chief of Police**: Reflects the skepticism towards honesty in dire situations, illustrating the societal pressure to conform to comfortable lies.
  - **Police Surgeon**: Highlights the physical and emotional toll of truth-telling, underscoring the story's core message about the

dangers of honesty in violent contexts.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the Dying Man's confession.
  - Students will discuss the role of accountability in personal and social conflicts.
  - Students will identify themes of violence and truth in the story.
  - Students will reflect on their own experiences with honesty and accountability.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the consequences of the Dying Man's honesty in the story?
  2. How do societal expectations shape individuals' willingness to speak the truth?
  3. In what ways does the story challenge our understanding of self-defense and aggression?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "A Fatal Disorder"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for reflection and analysis

✓ Original text available on the story page.