LESSON PLAN

A Matter of Method

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the phrase "an eye for an eye." Ask students if they think this approach leads to resolution or more conflict.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud, encouraging students to visualize the scenes. Ask students to pay attention to the Fool's actions and the Philosopher's responses.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Have them discuss the Fool's reasoning and the Philosopher's advice, focusing on the theme of violence and its futility.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Regroup and ask students to share their insights. Prompt them to think about non-violent methods of conflict resolution and how these can be applied in their own lives.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz or a reflective writing exercise where students summarize the moral of the story and relate it to a personal experience.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: A Matter of Method; Moral: Violence begets violence, and those who resort to it often fail to understand its futility.
- **Plot Summary**: In this captivating moral story, a Philosopher observes a Fool who is beating his donkey in an attempt to teach it a lesson after being kicked. The Philosopher implores the Fool to stop, knowing that violence will only lead to more suffering. The Fool's misguided method highlights the irony of trying to teach through aggression.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **The Philosopher**: Represents wisdom and reason, advocating for non-violence and understanding.
  - **The Fool**: Embodies ignorance and the misguided belief that violence can serve as a teaching tool.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' actions and their consequences.
  - Students will discuss the implications of violence as a method of teaching.
  - Students will reflect on alternative ways to resolve conflicts.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What message does the story convey about using violence to solve problems?
  2. How does the Fool’s approach differ from the Philosopher’s perspective?
  3. Can you think of real-life situations where violence was used to teach a lesson? What were the outcomes?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "A Matter of Method"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for notes and reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.