LESSON PLAN

A Needful War

GRADES
9+

READING LEVEL
5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** A Needful War; The moral of the story is that harboring hatred and engaging in violence can lead to devastating consequences for all involved, perpetuating a cycle of suffering and insecurity.
- **Plot Summary:** In the land of Madagonia, a violent incident against Novakatkan sailors ignites a brutal conflict. The Madagonians, refusing to apologize, face the wrath of Novakatka, leading to a devastating war that results in immense loss of life and security on both sides. The story highlights the futility of violence and the long-lasting impact of hatred.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **King of Madagonia:** Represents pride and refusal to admit wrongdoing, leading his people into further conflict.
  - **King of Novakatka:** Embodies the response to violence with vengeance, showing how retaliation can escalate a situation.
  - **Madagonian People:** Illustrate the consequences of their leaders' actions and the cycle of suffering that follows.

- **Novakatkan Sailors:** Victims of the initial violence, symbolizing the innocent lives caught in conflicts fueled by hatred.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral lessons from stories and their relevance in today's world.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and their consequences in the plot.
  - Students will discuss the cycle of violence and how it relates to real-world situations.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences to connect moral lessons to their lives.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What could the King of Madagonia have done differently to prevent the war?
  2. How did the actions of both kings contribute to the suffering of their people?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to current events or personal experiences?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "A Needful War"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils
  - Projector for displaying discussion questions

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of war. Ask students what they think causes conflicts between groups of people and if they know any recent examples of such conflicts.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read the story "A Needful War" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to discuss characters' actions and decisions. Encourage students to think about the emotions involved and how the plot unfolds.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to analyze a specific character's motivations and the consequences of their actions. Have them prepare a brief presentation on their findings.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a short reflection on how the story relates to lessons