LESSON PLAN

A Needless Labour

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** A Needless Labour
- **Moral/Theme:** One should not waste effort on actions that are already obvious or unnecessary.
- **Plot Summary:** The story follows a Skunk who, after waiting for an opportunity to seek revenge on a Lion, decides to confront him by announcing his unpleasant odor. However, the Lion, unfazed by the Skunk's attempts, points out that the Skunk's efforts are unnecessary since he is already aware of his identity and smell.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **Skunk:** Represents those who expend energy on pointless actions.
  - **Lion:** Embodies wisdom and indifference to unnecessary provocations.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**

    - Students will understand the moral lesson of not wasting effort on needless actions.
    - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and their significance in the story.
    - Students will discuss the implications of the moral in their own lives.
    - Students will connect the story to broader themes in moral-based storytelling.
- **Discussion Questions:**
    - What did the Skunk hope to achieve by confronting the Lion?
    - How does the Lion’s response reflect wisdom?
    - Can you think of a situation in your life where you might have put effort into something unnecessary?
- **Required Materials:**
    - Printed copies of the story "A Needless Labour"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and pens for student notes

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
    - Begin with a brief discussion on what students think a "needless labor" is. Ask them if they've ever done something that seemed pointless.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**
    - Read the story aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to allow students to reflect on the characters' actions and motivations.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
  - Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to analyze either the Skunk or the Lion. They should discuss what each character represents and how their actions contribute to the moral of the story.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
  - Bring the class back together. Have each group share their insights and discuss how the moral of the story can be applied in real life. Encourage students to relate it to their experiences.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
  - Quick verbal quiz: Ask students to summarize the moral of the story in their own words and provide an example of a needless action they might have encountered.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Have students write a short story that illustrates a different moral lesson related to needless actions.
  - Create a role-play scenario where students act out situations involving needless labor and discuss alternatives.
- **Differentiation Strategies:**
  - For advanced students, encourage them to research

✓ Original text available on the story page.