LESSON PLAN

A Protagonist of Silver

GRADES
9+

READING LEVEL
5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** A Protagonist of Silver; The irony of self-serving motives disguised as noble intentions.
- **Plot summary:** In a meeting of financiers, a member passionately addresses his comrades about their supposed noble fight for silver's worth, while subtly revealing their true motivations—financial gain. The irony unfolds as they leave the meeting, abandoning their previous convictions for personal benefit.
- **Key characters and their significance:**
  - **The Financier:** Represents the self-serving nature of those in power, disguising ulterior motives as altruism.
  - **The Member of the Convention:** Acts as a mouthpiece for the financiers, highlighting the irony of their claims versus their actions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will identify the moral themes present in the story.

- Students will analyze character motivations and their implications.
- Students will discuss the irony and its impact on the story's message.
- Students will create their own short moral stories inspired by the themes of the lesson.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What are the primary motivations of the characters in the story?
  2. How does irony play a role in conveying the story's moral?
  3. Can you think of real-life examples where people disguise self-interest as altruism?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "A Protagonist of Silver"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Art supplies for extension activities (paper, coloring materials)

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin by asking students if they have ever witnessed someone pretending to care about a cause while benefiting personally. Share a brief example to illustrate the concept.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "A Protagonist of Silver" aloud. As you read, pause to discuss key points and ask students to reflect on their initial thoughts about the characters and their motives.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**

    - Divide students into small groups to analyze the motivations of each character.
    - Have them identify instances of irony in the story and discuss how these instances contribute to the overall moral.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Ask each group to come up with a short moral story of their own that reflects the themes of self-interest versus altruism. Encourage creativity and originality.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude with a quick formative assessment: have students write a one-sentence summary of the moral of the story and share it with a partner.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
    - Create illustrated storyboards that represent the moral of "A Protagonist of Silver."
    - Research and present real-life scenarios where financial interests have masked as public interest.
- **Differentiation Strategies:**

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✓ Original text available on the story page.