LESSON PLAN

A Seasonable Joke

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of making informed decisions. Ask students if they have ever made a decision based on a single piece of evidence. Share a humorous anecdote about hasty decisions to capture their interest.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "A Seasonable Joke" aloud to the class. Discuss the plot, characters, and setting. Encourage students to visualize the scene and the characters' emotions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students analyze the actions of the spendthrift. They will answer a series of guided questions about the decisions made in the story and discuss alternative actions he could have taken.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Bring the class back together and ask each group to share their insights. Lead a discussion on how the moral of the story applies to real-life situations, emphasizing the importance of careful decision-making.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Students will write a short paragraph summarizing the moral of the story and providing an example from their own lives where they learned the importance of not making hasty decisions.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: A Seasonable Joke; The moral of the story is that one should not make hasty decisions based on limited evidence or early signs.
- **Plot Summary**: In this thought-provoking moral story, a spendthrift spots a single swallow and, convinced that summer has arrived, hastily pawns his cloak. His impulsive decision leads to unexpected consequences when summer indeed arrives, highlighting the folly of jumping to conclusions based on insufficient evidence.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Spendthrift**: Represents impulsiveness and the dangers of making decisions based solely on limited observations.
  - **The Swallow**: Symbolizes the misleading nature of first appearances and how they can lead to faulty judgments.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their actions in relation to the moral.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of making hasty decisions.
  - Students will relate the story to their own experiences with decision-making.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What made the spendthrift think it was summer based on just one swallow?
  2. Can you think of a time when you made a quick decision that you later regretted? What happened?
  3. How can we avoid making hasty decisions in our daily lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "A Seasonable Joke"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for analysis exercises