LESSON PLAN

A Ship and a Man

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Start with a humorous anecdote about ambition that relates to the story. Ask students to share their own experiences of feeling overlooked in pursuit of their goals.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read the story aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for emotions and themes. After reading, facilitate a brief discussion on their initial reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze one character and their significance. They will discuss how that character's actions contribute to the overall theme.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Ask students to reflect on a time they felt ambitious but unrecognized. How did it affect them? Have them write a short paragraph about it.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conduct a quick class poll using hand signals (thumbs up, sideways, down) to gauge understanding of the theme and characters.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title**: A Ship and a Man
- **Moral/Theme**: Ambition without recognition or support can lead to feelings of isolation and frustration.
- **Plot Summary**: The story follows an Ambitious Person who chases after a ship, symbolizing his aspirations in the political realm. Despite his fervent pursuit, he remains unnoticed by the public, leading to feelings of isolation and disappointment. The humorous yet poignant interaction with the ship's Skipper highlights the futility of ambition without acknowledgment.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Ambitious Person**: Represents individuals striving for success but feeling overlooked.
  - **The Skipper**: Embodies the indifference of the world towards individual struggles and ambitions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the theme of ambition and its potential pitfalls.
- Students will analyze the characters' motivations and feelings within the story.
- Students will discuss the significance of recognition and support in achieving goals.
- Students will relate the story's moral to contemporary situations.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the ship symbolize in the story, and how does it relate to ambition?
  2. How does the reaction of the Skipper reflect the societal attitudes towards individual aspirations?
  3. In what ways can we support others in their ambitions to prevent feelings of isolation?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "A Ship and a Man"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.