LESSON PLAN

A Treaty of Peace

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what peace means to students. Ask if they believe peace can be achieved through negotiations and treaties, or if it requires deeper understanding and respect.

15–20 min

Story exploration

Read 'A Treaty of Peace' aloud. Discuss key plot points and characters. Prompt students to share their immediate reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis exercises

- Divide students into small groups to analyze the philosopher's plan. Ask them to identify the moral implications of the treaty.

10 min

Application/reflection

Ask students to reflect on a time when they witnessed or experienced a conflict that could have been resolved differently. Encourage them to think about the human element in conflict resolution.

5 min

Assessment strategy

Collect reflections and group analysis notes. Provide feedback based on participation and insight during discussions.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: A Treaty of Peace; The absurdity of quantifying human life in the pursuit of peace.
- **2-3 sentence plot summary**: In the aftermath of catastrophic wars between China and the United States, a philosopher proposes a treaty that allows for the exchange of scalps as a form of compensation for loss of life. This transaction-based approach to peace leads to an ironic and morally troubling resolution, highlighting the failure of seeing human life as a commodity.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Philosopher**: Represents misguided rationality and the absurdity of transactional morality.
  - **The Governments of China and the United States**: Symbolize the entrenched nature of conflict and the failure to genuinely seek peace.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning objectives**:

- Students will analyze the implications of treating human life as a transaction.
- Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the philosopher's proposed solution.
- Students will discuss the moral lessons conveyed through the story.
- Students will compare this story to other popular moral stories and identify common themes.

- **Discussion questions**:
  1. What are the potential consequences of a treaty that quantifies human life?
  2. How does the story reflect real-world issues related to war and peace?
  3. Can you think of other stories with moral lessons that address similar themes?
- **Required materials**:
  - Copies of 'A Treaty of Peace'
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.