LESSON PLAN

A Valuable Suggestion

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on conflicts. Ask students if they believe strength or intelligence is more effective in resolving disputes, and why.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to ask questions about the characters' decisions and what they might imply about conflict resolution.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Ask them to identify the main ideas and themes of the story, focusing on the characters' actions and their implications. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph on a time they faced a conflict and how they resolved it. Encourage them to think about whether they used force or wisdom.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflective writing for assessment. Provide feedback based on clarity of thought, relevance to the story, and demonstration of understanding of the moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: A Valuable Suggestion - The story illustrates that wisdom and understanding can often be more powerful and cost-effective than displays of force.
- **Plot Summary**: A powerful nation prepares to intimidate a smaller nation with a grand display of military might. However, the smaller nation's president sends a clever note showcasing their knowledge of the big nation's naval power. This act of wisdom leads to the big nation reconsidering their approach, saving them a vast amount of money and ultimately allowing for a more peaceful resolution.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **President of the Big Nation**: Represents power and the potential for overreach; learns that wisdom can be more effective than force.
  - **President of the Little Nation**: Embodies intelligence and strategy; uses knowledge to diffuse a tense situation.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of wisdom over brute force.
  - Students will explore the concept of negotiation and peaceful resolution in conflicts.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their impacts on the plot.
  - Students will reflect on how this story relates to real-world situations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the consequences of the Big Nation's initial plan to display their navy?
  2. How did the Little Nation's response change the outcome of the conflict?
  3. Can you think of a real-life situation where wisdom resolved a conflict instead of force?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story 'A Valuable Suggestion'
  - Whiteboard and markers for group discussion
  - Notebooks for reflective writing

✓ Original text available on the story page.