LESSON PLAN

An Officer and a Thug

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about the phrase "Don't judge a book by its cover." Ask students if they have ever misjudged someone based on their appearance.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. Pause at key moments to gauge students' reactions and predictions about characters and events.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters and their significance.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph about a time they learned a lesson from a story, drawing connections to the moral of 'An Officer and a Thug'.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use a quick exit ticket where students write one lesson learned from the story and one question they still have.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: An Officer and a Thug; Moral: Appearances can be deceiving, highlighting the absurdity of violence and authority in a superficial context.
- **Plot Summary**: In a comical twist on authority and violence, a Chief of Police reprimands an Officer for beating a Thug, only to discover that both the Officer and Thug are not what they seem — they are stuffed figures. The absurdity of the situation reveals deeper truths about perception and reality.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Officer**: Represents authority yet embodies contradictions; his actions prompt questions about true power.
  - **Thug**: Initially perceived as a victim but reveals the superficial nature of appearances; serves as an example of misjudgment.
  - **Chief of Police**: Embodies the misguided nature of authority and the folly in taking violence lightly.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify and analyze the moral themes presented in the story.
  - Students will discuss how appearances can be misleading in real life and literature.
  - Students will explore the absurdities of authority and violence through character analysis.
  - Students will connect the moral of the story to personal experiences and societal issues.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the story says about the nature of authority?
  2. How do the characters' appearances affect our understanding of their roles?
  3. Can you think of real-life situations where appearances are deceiving?
- **Required Materials**:
  - A copy of the story 'An Officer and a Thug'
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing materials for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.