LESSON PLAN

The Aethiop

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking quote about identity and acceptance. Ask students to share their thoughts on what makes someone who they are.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Aethiop" as a class. Encourage students to listen carefully and think about the characters' motivations and the story's underlying message.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss and analyze the key themes. Each group will present their thoughts on the story's moral and how it relates to real-world situations.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short reflection on a time when they felt judged or misunderstood. Encourage them to connect their experiences to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick formative assessment through a class discussion, prompting students to share their reflections and insights gained from the lesson.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Aethiop; Moral: Inherent qualities or characteristics cannot be changed by superficial treatments or efforts.
- **Plot Summary**: The story follows a purchaser of a black servant who believes that the servant's skin color is merely dirt that can be scrubbed away. Despite his relentless attempts to clean the servant, he learns that the servant's complexion is unchangeable, highlighting the futility of trying to alter someone’s inherent nature.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Purchaser**: Represents ignorance and the desire to impose superficial change without understanding inherent qualities.
  - **The Servant**: Embodies resilience and the idea that true identity is unchangeable, regardless of external pressures.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of the story.
  - Students will identify and analyze the key themes in "The Aethiop."
  - Students will discuss the relevance of the story's moral in today's context.
  - Students will reflect on the importance of accepting individuals for who they are.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of identity?
  2. How does the purchaser's attitude reflect societal views on race and difference?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our lives today?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Aethiop"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students
  - Projector for visual aids (if needed)