LESSON PLAN

The Appropriate Memorial

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of memorials and tributes in society. Ask students if they can think of a memorial or tribute that they found particularly meaningful or meaningless.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read aloud "The Appropriate Memorial." After reading, encourage students to share their initial thoughts and feelings about the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the motivations of the characters. Each group can create a chart comparing the actions of the Other High Public Functionary with those of the deceased public functionary.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on how they would like to be remembered and what actions could genuinely honor their legacy.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect students' reflections and provide feedback based on their understanding of the moral and their ability to connect personal experiences to the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Appropriate Memorial; Moral: Hollow tributes and empty gestures often fail to truly honor the virtues and legacy of a respected individual.
- **Plot Summary**: In a town mourning the loss of a high public functionary, the citizens gather to discuss how best to honor his memory. One speaker suggests an elaborate monument, but the spirit of the deceased looks down and weeps at the insincerity of the gesture, highlighting the importance of genuine remembrance over superficial tributes.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Deceased Public Functionary**: Represents the virtues and contributions of a respected individual whose legacy is at stake.
  - **The Other High Public Functionary**: Symbolizes superficiality in memorial practices, emphasizing how empty gestures can overlook true honor.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications about genuine tribute.
  - Students will analyze the motivations behind the characters' actions.
  - Students will discuss the difference between meaningful and hollow gestures in honoring someone's legacy.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences of remembrance and tribute.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the importance of authenticity in honoring someone's memory?
  2. How do the actions of the Other High Public Functionary reflect societal tendencies toward superficiality?
  3. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know honored someone in a way that felt meaningful? What made it special?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Appropriate Memorial" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for student reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.