LESSON PLAN

The Christian Serpent

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion on trust. Ask students to share experiences where they felt betrayed and how it affected them. Introduce "The Christian Serpent" as a story that explores betrayal.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read "The Christian Serpent" aloud. Have students follow along with their copies, encouraging them to highlight key phrases that they find impactful.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Break students into small groups to analyze the characters and the moral of the story. Each group will discuss the significance of the rattlesnake's fate and how it relates to themes of influence and betrayal.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have each group present their findings. Follow up with a class discussion on how the themes of the story can be applied to current events or personal experiences.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conduct a quick poll where students can vote on which character they found most relatable or impactful and explain their reasoning in a few sentences.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Christian Serpent; Moral: Betrayal and malice from influential figures can lead to devastating consequences.
- **Plot Summary**: A rattlesnake returns to his young, preparing to impart his final blessing as he succumbs to a fatal bite from an editor. This story serves as a cautionary tale about trust and the dangers of betrayal, illustrating how those in power can inflict harm.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Rattlesnake**: Represents the consequences of betrayal and how trust can be misused.
  - **The Small Snakes**: Symbolize innocence and the impact of adult actions on the younger generation.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions in the context of betrayal.
  - Students will discuss the implications of trust and influence in their own lives.
  - Students will create their own short story with a moral inspired by "The Christian Serpent."
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - What does the rattlesnake's final words reveal about his character?
  - How does this story reflect the idea of betrayal in society?
  - In what ways can we apply the lessons from this story to avoid similar situations in our own lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Christian Serpent"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for story creation

✓ Original text available on the story page.