LESSON PLAN

The City of Political Distinction

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	45 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what ambition means to students. Ask them to share examples of ambition they see in their lives or in the media.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The City of Political Distinction" together as a class. Pause to discuss key moments and characters as they arise in the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a character. Have them analyze the character's role in the story and present their findings, focusing on how each character contributes to the moral of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short reflection on a time they experienced ambition. How did it affect their choices and identity? Could they

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The City of Political Distinction; The pursuit of political ambition can lead to costly sacrifices and irrevocable consequences, often resulting in a loss of individuality and identity.
- **Plot Summary**: Jamrach the Rich embarks on a journey to the City of Political Distinction, guided by a series of characters who each demand payment for their services. His ambition leads him through a series of tolls and tribulations, culminating in his arrival at a city where everyone has lost their individuality. Overwhelmed by the consequences of his ambition, Jamrach realizes the high cost of his pursuit.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Jamrach**: Represents ambition and the pursuit of success at any cost.
  - **Wise-Looking Person**: Symbolizes misguided guidance and the deceptive nature of political advice.
  - **Benevolent Gentleman**: Embodies the facade of generosity in the political realm.
  - **Civil Engineer**: Represents the exploitation of investments in the pursuit of progress.
  - **Ferryman**: A metaphor for the irreversible consequences of one's choices.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of ambition in politics.
  - Students will identify key themes and characters in the story.
  - Students will analyze the consequences of Jamrach's decisions.
  - Students will discuss how the story reflects real-world political scenarios.
  - Students will create connections between the story and their personal experiences with ambition.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the sacrifices Jamrach makes on his journey, and how do they reflect the costs of ambition?
  2. How does the story illustrate the idea that success can lead to a loss of individuality?
  3. In what ways can we see parallels between Jamrach’s journey and current political situations today?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The City of Political Distinction"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for reflection and analysis

✓ Original text available on the story page.