LESSON PLAN

The Conscientious Official

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of safety in various professions. Ask students to share examples where they believe safety was compromised for profit.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud or provide copies for students to read in pairs. After reading, discuss key events and characters, emphasizing their roles and motivations.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign them to create a character map highlighting each character's traits and their significance to the moral. Encourage them to include examples from the text.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on the moral of the story. Ask them to think of a situation in their own lives where they had to choose between profit and safety or well-being.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz on the key themes and characters of the story, as well as an open-ended question about the moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Conscientious Official; The necessity of prioritizing human safety over corporate interests.
- **Plot Summary**: In this thought-provoking moral story, a Division Superintendent of a railway is focused on maximizing profits by ignoring safety protocols, which leads to numerous accidents. When warned about potential dismissal for incompetency, he ironically questions whether the President expects him to endanger passengers instead of prioritizing company property.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Division Superintendent**: Represents corporate greed and the absurdity of prioritizing profits over human life.
  - **President of the Railway**: Symbolizes the upper management's detachment from the consequences of their decisions on everyday people.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of prioritizing safety in any organization.
  - Students will be able to analyze the characters' motivations and their consequences.
  - Students will articulate the moral message of the story in their own words.
  - Students will identify the relevance of this story to modern corporate practices.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  - Why do you think the Division Superintendent reacts the way he does to the President's concerns?
  - How can we relate this story to current events where corporate interests conflict with public safety?
  - What lessons can we learn from this story that apply to our everyday decisions?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Conscientious Official"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Projector (for visual aids or pictures related to the story)

✓ Original text available on the story page.