LESSON PLAN

The Deceased and his Heirs

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Deceased and his Heirs; The story illustrates that engaging in litigation may benefit lawyers financially, but it often fails to serve the interests of the clients involved.
- **Plot Summary:** A man passes away, leaving behind a large estate and a multitude of relatives who claim their share. After years of court battles, only one relative succeeds in claiming the estate, only to find that there is nothing left to appraise. The attorney, having pocketed the fees, reveals the futility of the litigation process for the client.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Deceased:** Represents the source of conflict and the catalyst for the story.
  - **The Attorney:** Embodies the profit-driven nature of legal systems, showcasing the moral lesson.
  - **The Heirs:** Illustrate the greed and desperation that can arise from inheritance disputes.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral implications of pursuing litigation.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and their consequences.
  - Students will discuss the impact of greed on relationships.
  - Students will reflect on the broader societal implications of legal disputes.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What does this story teach us about the nature of greed and its consequences?
  2. How does the attorney's role shape our understanding of legal processes?
  3. In what ways can this story relate to modern-day situations involving inheritance and legal battles?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Deceased and his Heirs"
  - Whiteboard and markers for group brainstorming
  - Paper and writing utensils for reflection exercises

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Start with a funny story about a family dispute over an inheritance to capture students' attention and set the stage for discussing the serious themes in the story.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Deceased and his Heirs" aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for key themes and character motivations. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in small groups.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into pairs to identify the motivations of each character and how these motivations contribute to the story's outcome. Have them share their findings with the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on how the themes of the story relate to real-life situations. They can draw connections to current events or personal experiences involving greed or legal disputes.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude the lesson with a quick quiz where students answer multiple-choice questions about the story's characters, moral lessons, and themes.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**

✓ Original text available on the story page.