LESSON PLAN

The Devoted Widow

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion about grief and love. Ask students if they think there is a right time to express feelings, encouraging them to think about the emotions involved.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. Pause occasionally to discuss the widow's feelings and the gentleman's actions. Encourage students to express their thoughts on the emotional context of the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Each group will discuss the motivations behind the widow's and the gentleman's actions and how these affect the story's outcome.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how they would respond in a similar situation. Encourage them to consider the importance of empathy and timing in their responses.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick recap of the moral of the story. Ask students to share one lesson they learned from the story, which will serve as an informal assessment of their understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Devoted Widow; Theme: True respect for someone's grief is paramount, and love should not overshadow sensitivity to their emotional state.
- **Plot Summary**: A widow mourns her husband's grave when an Engaging Gentleman approaches her, professing his love. The widow, still in deep sorrow, rebuffs his advances, illustrating that the timing of expressing love can be just as important as the feelings themselves.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - The Widow: Represents grief and devotion, highlighting the importance of honoring emotional states.
  - The Engaging Gentleman: Symbolizes misguided intentions and the need for sensitivity in difficult times.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of empathy in relationships.
  - Students will recognize the significance of timing in expressing emotions.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their impacts on others.
  - Students will identify the moral lessons presented in the story.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. Why is it important to consider someone else's feelings before acting on your own?
  2. How can we show respect to those who are grieving?
  3. What lessons can we learn from the widow's reaction to the gentleman?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Devoted Widow"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.