LESSON PLAN

The Discontented Malefactor

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of learning from mistakes. Ask students to share a time when they learned a valuable lesson from a difficult experience.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Discontented Malefactor" aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen for the motivations of the characters and the moral of the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will discuss the characters' motivations and how they relate to the moral of the story. Students will create a brief presentation to share their insights.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how they can apply the story's lessons to their own lives. Prompt them to consider the importance of accountability and learning from mistakes.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect students' reflections to assess their understanding of the story's moral and their ability to connect it to personal experiences.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Discontented Malefactor; Moral: Some individuals may prefer punishment over the moral lessons that come with it, highlighting a resistance to personal reform and the value of accountability.
- **Plot Summary**: In this short story, a Judge sentences a Malefactor to three years in prison while attempting to impart valuable lessons about the consequences of crime. The Malefactor, however, interrupts the Judge, expressing a desire to extend his prison term in exchange for avoiding the moral instruction. This story serves as a reflection on the reluctance of some individuals to embrace meaningful stories with moral lessons.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Judge**: Represents authority and the voice of reason, trying to educate the Malefactor on the importance of reform.
  - **The Malefactor**: A character resistant to change, highlighting the theme of accountability and the consequences of one's actions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of the story.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their significance in the narrative.
  - Students will explore the theme of accountability in relation to personal choices.
  - Students will engage in discussions about the impact of moral stories for students on their understanding of ethics.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. Why do you think the Malefactor prefers punishment without moral lessons?
  2. How does the story illustrate the challenges of personal reform?
  3. In what ways can moral stories, like this one, influence our decision-making in real life?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Discontented Malefactor" story.
  - Whiteboard and markers.
  - Discussion handouts.

✓ Original text available on the story page.