LESSON PLAN

The Dog and the Cook

GRADES	READING LEVEL
2–5	3

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1. STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Dog and the Cook; Excessive indulgence can lead to unforeseen consequences and misfortune.
- **Plot Summary:** A rich man's feast brings joy to a dog who invites a friend to join him. However, the friend's excessive indulgence leads to his expulsion from the feast and a painful experience. His overindulgence leaves him confused and regretful.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Rich Man:** Represents abundance and the setting for the dog's misfortune.
  - **The Dog (the host):** Symbolizes generosity but also the consequence of inviting others to indulgent situations.
  - **The Cook:** Embodies the authority that enforces rules and the consequences of excess.

2. LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**

    - Students will identify the moral of the story and discuss its implications.
    - Students will analyze character motivations and their roles in the story.
    - Students will explore the consequences of overindulgence through group discussions.
    - Students will create their own very short moral stories that reflect the same theme.
- **Discussion Questions:**
    - What do you think the dog could have done differently to avoid the outcome?
    - How does the cook's action reflect on the concept of rules and consequences?
    - In what ways can this story be related to our everyday choices regarding indulgence?
- **Required Materials:**
    - Copies of the story "The Dog and the Cook"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and art supplies for storytelling activity

3. LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion about celebrations and feasts. Ask students if they have ever overindulged in a treat and how it made them feel afterward. Share a captivating moral story that highlights the theme of moderation.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Dog and the Cook" aloud to the class. Pause to ask students about their initial reactions and feelings about the characters and events. Encourage them to connect to the characters' experiences.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Break students into small groups to discuss character motivations and outcomes. Each group should identify key moments that illustrate the story’s moral. Have them present their findings to the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a brief reflection on a time they experienced consequences from overindulgence or witnessed it in others. They should relate it to the moral of the story.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Collect reflections and assess understanding of the moral through a brief quiz on character motivations and the story’s themes.

4. SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Create a comic strip illustrating an alternative

✓ Original text available on the story page.