LESSON PLAN

The Dog and the Physician

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a quick read of the story to capture the students' attention. Ask them if they have ever buried something (a secret, a memory) and what that meant to them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud again, allowing time for students to ask questions. Discuss the dog and physician's contrasting views.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

In small groups, have students list what they believe the 'bones' represent in their lives (dreams, fears, regrets). Share and compare ideas with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short reflection on a time they had to let something go and what they learned from that experience relating to the story's moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick quiz with true/false questions about the story's main points and themes to assess understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Dog and the Physician - The value of what is buried lies in its intended purpose and whether it can be retrieved or is meant to remain lost.
- **Plot Summary**: In this thought-provoking tale, a dog observes a physician burying a wealthy patient. The dog, intrigued, asks the physician when he plans to dig it up. The physician explains that he buries those bones he can no longer retrieve, contrasting it with the dog's habit of burying bones for later enjoyment.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Dog**: Represents a simpler view of value and purpose, highlighting a desire for immediate satisfaction.
  - **The Physician**: Embodies wisdom and the understanding of finality, teaching that some things are meant to be left buried.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will identify the central moral of the story.
- Students will analyze the characters' perspectives on value and purpose.
- Students will discuss the implications of choices and their outcomes.
- Students will reflect on personal experiences relating to the story's themes.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the dog’s perspective tell us about immediate gratification?
  2. How can we apply the physician's wisdom to our own lives?
  3. Are there things in your life that you might need to 'bury' or let go of?
- **Required Materials**:
  - A copy of the story "The Dog and the Physician"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.