LESSON PLAN

The Eligible Son-in-Law

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on how first impressions can be misleading. Ask students if they have ever judged someone based on their appearance and what the outcome was.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud. Encourage students to visualize the characters and setting. Pause at key moments to ask students what they think might happen next.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Split students into small groups. Each group will analyze a character's motivations and decisions. They will then present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they made a decision based on appearances. Encourage them to connect their experiences to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use an exit ticket where each student writes one thing they learned about making judgments and one question they still have.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Eligible Son-in-Law, Moral: Superficial assessments of worth and security based on appearances can lead to misguided decisions.
- **Plot Summary**: In this humorous tale, a pious banker is approached by a disheveled man seeking a loan. The man claims his worth will increase once he marries the banker's daughter, leading the banker to overlook significant red flags in the man's character. The story humorously critiques how appearances can mislead one's judgment.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Truly Pious Person**: Represents traditional values and a focus on security, yet falls prey to superficial reasoning.
  - **The Tatterdemalion**: Embodies the deceptive nature of appearances and the folly of making decisions based on convenience rather than substance.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main characters and their motivations.
  - Students will analyze the moral of the story and relate it to their own experiences.
  - Students will discuss how humor can enhance the delivery of moral lessons.
  - Students will evaluate the consequences of the characters' decisions.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the importance of understanding a person’s true character?
  2. How does humor play a role in conveying the story's moral?
  3. Can you think of a situation in real life where superficial judgments led to a poor decision?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Eligible Son-in-Law"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Chart paper and colored markers for group work

✓ Original text available on the story page.