LESSON PLAN

The Hen and the Vipers

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Hen and the Vipers; Moral: Embracing dangerous choices for short-term gain can lead to self-destruction.
- **Plot Summary:** A hen hatches a brood of vipers, and when warned by a swallow about their dangerous nature, she dismisses the advice, claiming that indulging in the vipers is a way to enjoy the delicacies of the season. Her short-sightedness highlights the consequences of poor decisions.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Hen:** Represents those who make dangerous choices for immediate benefits.
  - **The Swallow:** Symbolizes wisdom and caution, serving as a voice of reason in the face of folly.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral implications of the story.

- Students will analyze the decisions made by the hen and their consequences.
- Students will discuss the importance of caution in making choices.
- Students will relate the story's themes to real-life scenarios where short-term gain may lead to long-term harm.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What were the hen’s motivations for hatching the vipers?
  2. How does the swallow represent wisdom in this story?
  3. Can you think of a real-life situation where someone made a dangerous choice for quick benefits?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Hen and the Vipers"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for students

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**

Begin with a brief discussion about choices and consequences. Ask students if they have ever made a choice that seemed good at the time but had negative results later.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**

Read "The Hen and the Vipers" aloud to the class. Encourage students to listen carefully for the key events and motivations of the characters. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in their own words.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**

Divide students into small groups to discuss the hen's choices. Ask them to identify at least two decisions made by the hen and analyze the outcomes. Each group will present their findings to the class.

- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they faced a difficult choice. They should relate their experience to the story's moral about the danger of short-term gains.

- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**

Collect the reflection paragraphs and assess them based on clarity of thought, connection to the story, and understanding of the moral lesson.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
    1. Research and present

✓ Original text available on the story page.