LESSON PLAN

The Holy Deacon

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on what integrity means. Ask students to share a time when they faced a temptation to act dishonestly and how they handled it.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "The Holy Deacon" aloud. After reading, divide students into small groups to discuss their initial reactions to the story and identify the key themes.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Have students work individually to fill out a character analysis chart, focusing on the motivations, actions, and consequences of both the preacher and the deacon. Discuss as a class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short reflection in their journals about how they can apply the moral of this story to their own lives. What steps can they take to ensure they remain honest and avoid greed?

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the character analysis charts and journal reflections as formative assessments. Provide feedback on their understanding of the moral and character motivations.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Holy Deacon; The moral of the story is that greed and dishonesty can corrupt one's integrity and lead to unjust actions, even in the guise of religious service.
- **Plot Summary**: An itinerant preacher, seeking support for his work, convinces a Holy Deacon to collect donations from the congregation with the promise of sharing the proceeds. However, the deacon betrays the preacher's trust and keeps all the money for himself, revealing the corrupting power of greed.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Itinerant Preacher**: Represents sincerity and the striving for goodness in the community.
  - **The Holy Deacon**: A figure of authority who succumbs to greed, highlighting the theme of moral corruption.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions.
  - Students will discuss the impact of greed on personal integrity.
  - Students will identify the moral lesson in the story.
  - Students will reflect on how the story relates to personal experiences of honesty and dishonesty.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think motivated the Holy Deacon to act dishonestly?
  2. How does this story reflect on the theme of integrity in moral stories for personal growth?
  3. Can you think of a real-life situation where someone faced a similar moral dilemma?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Holy Deacon"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Journals for reflection
  - Projector for visual aids (optional)

✓ Original text available on the story page.