LESSON PLAN

The Humble Peasant

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about ambition and contentment. Ask students to share what they think ambition means and whether it always leads to happiness.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. After reading, facilitate a discussion about the key events and characters. Encourage students to express their initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Have them analyze the motivations of both the Office Seeker and the Peasant. Each group will create a Venn diagram comparing their ambitions and contentment levels.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a brief reflection on their own ambitions. They should consider what they aspire to achieve, and whether they feel that those ambitions will lead to happiness.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick exit ticket where students write down one thing they learned about ambition from the story and one question they still have.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Humble Peasant; The pursuit of ambition can lead to disappointment, but even the seemingly content can harbor their own aspirations for power.
- **Plot summary**: The story follows an Office Seeker who reflects on his failed ambitions while observing a humble peasant. He envies the peasant's peaceful life and contemplates the futility of ambition. However, the peasant reveals his own desire for power by asking the Office Seeker to use his influence to make him Postmaster, highlighting that everyone has their aspirations.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Office Seeker**: Represents those who chase ambition and power, ultimately leading to disappointment.
  - **Peasant**: Embodies the content yet ambitious individual, demonstrating that even those who seem satisfied have their own desires for advancement.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the moral of the story.
  - Students will compare the ambitions of the Office Seeker and the Peasant.
  - Students will discuss the implications of ambition and contentment in their own lives.
  - Students will identify and reflect on their personal aspirations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story teach us about the nature of ambition?
  2. How does the interaction between the Office Seeker and the Peasant change your perception of contentment?
  3. Can you think of a time when you pursued something that didn't bring you happiness? What did you learn from that experience?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Humble Peasant"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking

✓ Original text available on the story page.