LESSON PLAN

The Ineffective Rooter

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion about famous moral stories. Ask students to share any simple moral stories they know and what morals they learned from them.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Ineffective Rooter" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words and highlight the key characters and their actions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the following:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to think of a time when they criticized someone else. Have them reflect on their own actions and write a short paragraph about how they could have approached the situation differently.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz or exit ticket where students write down the moral of the story and one example of how they can apply it in their lives.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Ineffective Rooter; The moral of the story is that one should not criticize others for their shortcomings when they themselves are in a worse situation.
- **Plot Summary**: A drunken man lies in the road with a bleeding nose after falling. A pig, passing by, criticizes the man for his poor rooting skills while ignoring his own state of disarray. This encounter highlights the irony of one being in a worse situation while critiquing another.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Drunken Man**: Represents human flaws and the tendency to find fault in others despite being flawed himself.
  - **The Pig**: Embodies the foolishness of criticizing others without self-awareness, serving as a reminder of the importance of introspection.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main characters and their roles in the story.
  - Students will discuss the moral of the story and its relevance to their own experiences.
  - Students will analyze the irony present in the interactions between the pig and the man.
  - Students will create their own short moral story using a similar theme.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the pig's criticism reveal about his character?
  2. How might the drunken man's experience relate to situations in our lives?
  3. Why is it important to reflect on our own shortcomings before judging others?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Ineffective Rooter"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing materials for students