LESSON PLAN

The Ingenious Blackmailer

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief story about a modern-day example of greed leading to consequences, engaging students in a discussion about their initial thoughts on the topic.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Ingenious Blackmailer" as a class. Pause to discuss key moments and character motivations, ensuring students grasp the underlying themes of the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the story. Each group will identify specific examples of greed and its consequences, then present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how the moral of the story can apply to their own lives or current societal issues they observe.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz or exit ticket where students summarize the moral of the story in their own words and give one example of a situation where greed led to negative outcomes.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Ingenious Blackmailer; The moral of the story is that unethical proposals driven by greed can lead to dire consequences, highlighting the dangers of exploiting power for personal gain.
- **Plot Summary**: An inventor approaches a king with a revolutionary weapon that could ensure his kingdom's supremacy. However, the conversation reveals the inventor's greed and the king's moral dilemma, leading to a dramatic conclusion that underscores the perils of corruption and ambition.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Inventor**: Represents greed and exploitation, willing to manipulate power for personal gain.
  - **King**: Embodies authority and the moral responsibility that comes with power, faced with the choice of ethical governance versus the temptation of military might.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the motivations of the characters in the story.
  - Students will identify the moral lessons presented in the fable.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of unethical behavior as depicted in the story.
  - Students will compare this tale with other engaging moral tales to deepen their understanding of ethical dilemmas.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What are the implications of the inventor's proposal on the kingdom and its people?
  2. How does the king's reaction reflect his values and responsibilities?
  3. In what ways can this story be related to current events or personal experiences concerning ethics and morality?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Ingenious Blackmailer"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for notes and reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.