LESSON PLAN

The Life-Saver

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
6–8	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion about what students believe makes someone a hero. Share real-life stories with moral implications and ask students to think of a hero from their own lives.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read "The Life-Saver" aloud to the class. Ask students to pay attention to the characters and their actions. After reading, facilitate a brief discussion on their initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze the motivations of the Maiden and the Modern Swain. They will identify key quotes from the story that highlight these motivations and prepare to share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have students individually reflect on a time they witnessed or experienced selflessness in their lives. They can write a short paragraph about it, linking their experience to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conclude with a quick quiz or exit ticket where students write down the moral of the story and one personal connection they made during the lesson.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Life-Saver; True heroism involves selflessness and sacrifice, rather than seeking recognition or ownership of others' lives.
- **Plot Summary**: In this poignant tale, a Maiden rehearses words of gratitude for a life that she hopes to save, but in her selfless act, she ultimately sacrifices her own life. The Modern Swain reflects on her sacrifice, pondering the concept of true heroism and ownership of life.
- **Key Characters and their Significance**:
  - **The Maiden**: Represents selflessness and the idea of true heroism.
  - **The Modern Swain**: Serves as a foil to the Maiden, illustrating the contrast between genuine self-sacrifice and the superficial acknowledgment of heroism.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the concept of heroism in literature and real life.
  - Students will discuss the implications of selflessness and sacrifice.
  - Students will compare and contrast the characters' motivations.
  - Students will reflect on how this story relates to their own lives and experiences.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does true heroism mean to you, based on the story?
  2. How does the Maiden's action challenge or reinforce your understanding of heroism?
  3. Can you think of any real-life stories that reflect similar themes of selflessness?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Life-Saver" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students