LESSON PLAN

# The Man and His Two Sweethearts

GRADES
4–8

READING LEVEL
4

## STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** The Man and His Two Sweethearts; "Trying to please everyone can lead to losing what makes you unique."
- **Plot Summary:** A middle-aged man attempts to court two women simultaneously—one young and one older. In an effort to please both, he loses all his hair, as each woman tries to remove the signs of his age. The story illustrates the folly of trying to satisfy everyone and the inevitable loss that comes with it.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Man:** Represents the struggle of balancing conflicting desires and the consequences of trying to please everyone.
  - **The Young Woman:** Embodies youth and the societal pressure to be with someone who reflects that youth.
  - **The Older Woman:** Represents the insecurities of age and the lengths one may go to maintain appearances.

## LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will identify the main characters and their motivations in the story.
  - Students will analyze the moral lesson and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of attempting to please everyone.
  - Students will reflect on their own experiences related to the story's themes.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What are the consequences of the man's desire to please both women?
  2. Can you relate to a situation where you tried to please multiple people? What was the outcome?
  3. How does this story compare to other famous fables with moral lessons?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Man and His Two Sweethearts"
  - Whiteboard and markers for discussion notes
  - Paper and pens for reflection activities

# LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion about fables and their morals. Ask students if they have ever made choices to please others and what the results were.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read the story aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to ask students for their thoughts on the

characters' actions and motivations.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups and assign them to analyze different elements of the story (characters, themes, moral). Each group will present their findings to the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a brief reflection on a time they faced a similar situation of trying to please others. Encourage them to connect their experiences to the moral of the story.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Collect reflections and assess based on understanding of the moral and personal connection to the story.

## SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  1. Create a visual story map of "The Man and His Two Sweethearts" highlighting key events and character motivations.

✓ Original text available on the story page.