LESSON PLAN

The Man and the Viper

GRADES
9+

READING LEVEL
5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Man and the Viper; The theme is that trusting those with harmful nature can lead to betrayal.
- **Plot Summary:** A man finds a frozen viper and, believing he can revive it with warmth, takes it into his bosom. As the viper thaws, it regains its strength and betrays the man's kindness by slithering away. The man learns a harsh lesson about misplaced trust.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Man:** Represents goodwill and trust, but also naivety.
  - **The Viper:** Symbolizes treachery and the dangers of trusting those who may harm you.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will analyze the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will identify the consequences of misplaced trust.

- Students will discuss character motivations and their implications.
- Students will create their own short moral story inspired by "The Man and the Viper."

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What do you think motivated the man to help the viper despite its nature?
  2. Can you think of a situation in your life where you trusted someone who ultimately let you down?
  3. How can we apply the moral of this story to our everyday interactions?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of "The Man and the Viper"
  - Pictures/illustrations related to the story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for exercises

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Start with a funny story that involves unexpected betrayal to engage students. Ask them how it made them feel and what they learned.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Man and the Viper" aloud. Use pictures to illustrate key moments in the story. Discuss initial reactions and thoughts.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze the motivations of the characters and the

consequences of the man's decision. They will prepare to share their findings.

- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students reflect on a time they had to decide whether to trust someone. They will write a short paragraph about their experience and what they learned.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude with a quick quiz or a few reflective questions to gauge understanding of the story's moral.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Create a comic strip that depicts a modern retelling of "The Man and the Viper."
  - Research real-life examples of betrayal and discuss them in class.
- **Differentiation Strategies:**
  - Provide visual aids and summaries for students who may struggle with reading

✓ Original text available on the story page.