LESSON PLAN

The Man with No Enemies

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a thought-provoking question: "How many of you think it's possible to have no enemies and still have meaningful friendships?" Encourage a brief discussion to set the tone.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "The Man with No Enemies" aloud. Pause at key points to ask students for their initial reactions and thoughts on the characters and their motivations.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the following:

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when conflict led to a deeper understanding in their relationships. Encourage them to think about the balance between avoiding and embracing conflict.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Quick oral assessment by asking students to summarize the moral of the story in their own words

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Man with No Enemies; The absence of enemies often signifies the absence of meaningful relationships and authenticity in one's life.
- **Plot summary**: In a public place, an inoffensive man is unexpectedly assaulted by a stranger. When the case goes to trial, the man claims he has no enemies, leading to a surprising revelation from the assailant about the nature of relationships. The judge ultimately dismisses the case, emphasizing the value of meaningful connections.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Inoffensive Man**: Represents those who avoid conflict at all costs but may lack depth in relationships.
  - **The Stranger**: Symbolizes the unexpected challenges that arise when one is overly passive or detached from genuine human interaction.
  - **The Judge**: Acts as a voice of wisdom, highlighting the importance of having both friends and enemies to foster

authentic connections.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the story.
  - Students will identify the relationship between enemies and friendships in their own lives.
  - Students will engage in discussions about authenticity in relationships.
  - Students will reflect on how conflict can lead to personal growth and deeper connections.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the phrase "no enemies" suggest about a person's social life?
  2. How can conflict contribute to the development of authentic relationships?
  3. In what ways might the fear of confrontation affect our friendships?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Man with No Enemies"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for reflection
  - Projector (for visual aids)