LESSON PLAN

The Member and the Soap

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Member and the Soap; The folly of being overly concerned with appearances and the consequences of neglecting genuine connections.
- **Plot Summary:** In this humorous tale, a member of the Kansas Legislature encounters a Cake of Soap that insists on greeting him. After a cordial handshake, the member discovers that soap residue clings to his fingers, leading him to panic and rush to wash his hands. This obsession with cleanliness leads to an exaggerated situation where he ends up seeking medical help for his now "too clean" hands.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Member:** Represents the self-important individual who prioritizes appearances over genuine interactions.
  - **The Cake of Soap:** Symbolizes the superficiality of social status and the absurd lengths to which people go to maintain appearances.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral behind the story.
  - Students will identify the characters and their significance.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of valuing appearances over authenticity.
  - Students will relate the story to real-life scenarios and modern-day implications.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What does the interaction between the member and the soap reveal about societal values?
  2. How can we apply the lessons from this story to our own lives?
  3. In what ways do you think the story's moral is relevant to both kids and adults?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Printed copies of "The Member and the Soap"
  - Whiteboard and markers for group discussion
  - Paper and pens for reflection activities

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
  - Begin with a brief discussion about the importance of appearances in society. Ask students if they have ever felt pressured to look or act a certain way.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**
  - Read "The Member and the Soap" aloud to the class.

- Pause at key moments to ask students for their predictions and thoughts.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
  - Divide students into small groups. Ask them to analyze the motivations of the member and the implications of his actions.
  - Have each group share their findings with the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
  - Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they felt pressured to care about appearances.
  - Encourage them to think about how they can prioritize genuine connections instead.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
  - Collect reflection paragraphs to assess understanding of the moral.
  - Use a simple rubric to evaluate clarity of thought, connection to the story, and depth of reflection.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Students can create a visual representation (drawing or

✓ Original text available on the story page.