LESSON PLAN

The Moral Principle and the Material Interest

GRADES
9+

READING LEVEL
4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Moral Principle and the Material Interest; Moral: The story illustrates that moral principles can be easily compromised when faced with the unyielding nature of material interests.
- **Plot Summary:** A Moral Principle encounters a Material Interest on a narrow bridge, where only one can pass. Initially, the Moral Principle demands that the Material Interest yield, but as the situation develops, it becomes clear that the Material Interest will not budge, forcing the Moral Principle to reconsider its stance and ultimately submit.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **Moral Principle:** Represents ethics and morality, struggling to maintain integrity in the face of material desires.
  - **Material Interest:** Symbolizes selfishness and the allure of material gain, showcasing how it can overpower moral values.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the conflict between moral principles and material interests.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions in the story.
  - Students will discuss the implications of compromising moral values.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences related to moral dilemmas.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  - What do you think the Moral Principle could have done differently?
  - How does the story relate to real-life situations where moral values are challenged?
  - Can you think of a time when you or someone you know faced a similar dilemma?
- **Required Materials:**
  - A copy of the story "The Moral Principle and the Material Interest"
  - Chart paper and markers for group discussions
  - Notebooks for reflection

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a quick moral story that involves a similar theme of conflict between values and interests.

Ask students to share their initial thoughts on the story's moral implications.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Moral Principle and the Material Interest" aloud. After reading, facilitate a discussion about the characters and their significance. Encourage students to share their interpretations of the moral.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups to analyze the story's key moments. Each group will identify how the Moral Principle's actions reflect its internal struggle and how the Material Interest's nature challenges it. They can use chart paper to illustrate their findings.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they faced a similar moral conflict. They can share their reflections with a partner or in small groups.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conclude with a brief quiz or a group discussion to assess understanding of the moral and its implications.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Create a modern retelling of the story that applies to current societal issues.
  - Develop a short moral tale