LESSON PLAN

The Moral Sentiment

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening hook

Begin with a humorous anecdote about societal norms and personal behavior to engage students and illustrate the theme of hypocrisy.

15–20 min

Story exploration

Read 'The Moral Sentiment' aloud. Encourage students to listen for the key themes of moral judgment and hypocrisy. Discuss initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze character motivations and discuss how they relate to the story's moral. Have them consider the implications of these behaviors in society.

10 min

Application/reflection

Bring the class back together and ask groups to share their findings. Facilitate a discussion on how the moral of the story applies to real-life situations. Invite students to share personal experiences where they encountered hypocrisy.

5 min

Assessment strategy

Have students write a brief reflection on what they learned about societal norms and personal behavior, including a connection to the story's moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Moral Sentiment; The story illustrates that societal norms and moral judgments can often be hypocritical, as the very individuals who criticize others may be drawn to the excitement or drama they seek to condemn.
- **Plot summary**: A pugilist encounters the Moral Sentiment of the Community, who is carrying a "new frown" intended to condemn pugilism. Ironically, the Moral Sentiment's curiosity about the pugilist's recent fight reveals a hidden fascination with the very violence they claim to disapprove of.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Pugilist**: Represents the raw and honest aspect of human nature, unafraid to embrace the thrill of life.
  - **Moral Sentiment of the Community**: Embodies societal hypocrisy and the tendency to judge others while secretly being drawn to the very behaviors they condemn.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral lesson in the story.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their significance to the theme.
  - Students will discuss the implications of societal hypocrisy in modern contexts.
  - Students will compare 'The Moral Sentiment' with other classic moral stories.
- **Discussion questions**:
  1. What does the pugilist symbolize in the context of the story?
  2. How does the interaction between the pugilist and the Moral Sentiment illustrate hypocrisy?
  3. Can you think of a modern example where societal norms clash with individual behavior?
- **Required materials**:
  - Copy of 'The Moral Sentiment'
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for student reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.