LESSON PLAN

The Mourning Brothers

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what students think "hypocrisy" and "stubbornness" mean. Ask them to share any personal experiences related to these themes.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read 'The Mourning Brothers' aloud. Pause at key moments to discuss character emotions and motivations. Encourage students to consider how the story aligns with common short moral tales.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Split students into small groups to identify the moral of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on how they can avoid hypocrisy and stubbornness in their own lives. Share a few reflections with the class.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflective paragraphs to assess understanding of the moral themes. Provide feedback on their insights.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Mourning Brothers; Hypocrisy and stubbornness can lead to self-inflicted loss and regret.
- **Plot Summary**: In this moral tale, an Old Man, before his death, challenges his two sons to prove their love for him by wearing mourning weeds. The sons, driven by pride and stubbornness, wear the weeds until they are old men, only to discover that their competition leads to their mutual loss.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Old Man**: Represents the consequences of seeking validation through manipulation.
  - **Elder Son**: Embodies stubbornness and hypocrisy, ultimately facing regret for his actions.
  - **Younger Son**: Also stubborn, he learns that pride can lead to loss.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to their lives.
- Students will analyze the character motivations and their consequences.
- Students will discuss how the themes of hypocrisy and stubbornness manifest in real-life situations.
- Students will create their own very short moral stories inspired by 'The Mourning Brothers'.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of true love and respect?
  2. How do the actions of the brothers reflect common human behaviors?
  3. Can you think of a situation where stubbornness led to a negative outcome in your life or someone else's?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of 'The Mourning Brothers' story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for exercises

✓ Original text available on the story page.