LESSON PLAN

The Nightside of Character

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on what makes a person trustworthy. Ask students to share their thoughts on how reputation can influence perceptions of character.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud or have students read it in pairs. Pause at critical moments to discuss characters' motivations and reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the key themes. Each group will present their findings on how the editor's character reflects the moral of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph about a time they faced a similar dilemma of reputation versus honesty. Encourage them to share their reflections if comfortable.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write one lesson learned from the story and one question they still have about the themes discussed.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Nightside of Character; The pursuit of reputation can obscure one's true character, leading to downfall.
- **Plot Summary**: The story revolves around a successful editor who seeks to marry his old friend's daughter. Despite his outward success and charm, he reveals his darker side through a scrap-book filled with evidence of his dishonesty. His true character is ultimately exposed, resulting in a harsh rejection and his subsequent downfall.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Gifted and Honourable Editor**: Represents the conflict between reputation and true character, illustrating how dishonesty can lead to one's undoing.
  - **The Old Friend**: Symbolizes trust and the consequences of disillusionment when faced with the truth.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze how characters in moral stories reveal deeper truths about human nature.
  - Students will discuss the implications of reputation versus reality in storytelling.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences that relate to themes of honesty and integrity.
  - Students will identify the moral lesson conveyed through the story and connect it to well-known moral stories.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the relationship between reputation and true character?
  2. How does the editor’s journey reflect common themes in inspirational short stories with moral lessons?
  3. In what ways can we apply the lessons learned from this story to our own lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Nightside of Character"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking
  - Access to well-known moral stories for comparison

✓ Original text available on the story page.