LESSON PLAN

The Old Man and the Pupil

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Old Man and the Pupil; The danger of blindly following outward appearances and the importance of discerning true character.
- **Plot Summary:** A beautiful old man approaches a Sunday-school pupil and offers wise advice. However, the pupil soon discovers the old man's true nature as a pirate, highlighting the contrast between appearance and reality.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Beautiful Old Man:** Represents deceptive appearances and the danger of superficial wisdom.
  - **The Sunday-school Pupil:** Embodies innocence and the quest for knowledge, showcasing the importance of critical thinking.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the story.

- Students will discuss the significance of character and integrity.
- Students will compare and contrast appearances versus reality.
- Students will reflect on personal experiences related to the theme.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What do you think the old man represents in society?
  2. How can we apply the moral of this story in our daily lives?
  3. Have you ever encountered someone who seemed trustworthy but turned out not to be? What happened?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "The Old Man and the Pupil"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking and reflections

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion on how first impressions can be misleading. Ask students to share their thoughts on a time they misjudged someone based on their appearance.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read the story aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words, emphasizing the old man's duality.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups to discuss the following:
  - Why do you think the old man chose to present himself as beautiful?

    - Discuss how the revelation of his true nature changes your perception of him.
    - How do the characters' actions reflect the moral of the story?
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a situation where they learned not to judge someone based on appearances. Encourage them to think about the lessons learned from the story.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Collect reflections and assess based on clarity of thought, connection to the story's moral, and depth of insight.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
    - Write a short story inspired by "The Old Man and the Pupil" that focuses on a different moral lesson.
    - Create a visual representation (e.g., drawing or collage) that illustrates the theme of appearances versus reality.
- **Differentiation Strategies:**

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✓ Original text available on the story page.