LESSON PLAN

The Oracle and the Impious

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
6–8	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of deception. Ask students if they have ever witnessed a situation where someone tried to deceive another person and what the outcomes were.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Oracle and the Impious" aloud to the class. Pause periodically to ask questions about the plot and characters to ensure understanding.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to discuss the motivations behind the pagan man's actions. Have them identify specific lines in the text that indicate Apollo's awareness of the deception.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they witnessed or experienced deception, and how it relates to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Collect the reflection paragraphs and use a simple rubric to assess understanding of the moral and character motivations.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Oracle and the Impious; The moral of the story is that one cannot deceive the divine or escape accountability for their actions, as true intentions are always known to a higher power.
- **Plot Summary**: A pagan man, suspected of heresy, attempts to trick the oracle Apollo by holding a sparrow in his hands, questioning whether it is alive or dead. His aim is to deceive the god and manipulate the outcome for his own benefit. Apollo sees through his plan, illustrating that one cannot escape the scrutiny of the divine.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Pagan Man**: Represents those who try to manipulate faith for personal gain.
  - **Apollo**: The divine force that sees through deception, symbolizing truth and accountability.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral implications of deception.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and the consequences of their actions.
  - Students will discuss the role of divine accountability in human actions.
  - Students will reflect on how the story relates to modern ethical dilemmas.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the sparrow symbolize in the story?
  2. How does the character of Apollo serve as a moral compass?
  3. In what ways can we see similar themes of deception in today's society?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Oracle and the Impious"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for reflection