LESSON PLAN

The Overlooked Factor

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking question: "Have you ever felt disappointed with the results of your efforts? What factors do you think contributed to that outcome?" Allow a brief discussion.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud as a class. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot and identify the main characters. Discuss their initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze one character and discuss how their traits influence the moral of the story. Groups will then share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they either succeeded or failed due to choices made. Encourage them to consider the role of inherent qualities in their situation.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz or exit ticket asking students to write down the moral of the story and one example from their own lives that aligns with it.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Overlooked Factor; The moral of the story is that careful selection and effort alone cannot guarantee success, as inherent qualities and differences in individuals also play a significant role in outcomes.
- **Plot Summary**: A man who successfully bred a fine dog laments the shortcomings of his children compared to the dog's offspring. He regrets not applying the same careful selection in choosing a mate for himself as he did for his dog. The dog humorously points out the inherent differences between the two of them, suggesting that the outcomes are not solely dependent on the partners chosen.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - The Man: Represents human flaws and the tendency to overlook inherent qualities in individuals.

- The Dog: Serves as a voice of reason, highlighting the importance of acknowledging inherent differences beyond mere selection.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will analyze the differences between the characters and their implications on the moral.
  - Students will discuss the importance of innate qualities versus external factors in determining success.
  - Students will reflect on their own experiences regarding choices and inherent qualities.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the man could have done differently in his choices?
  2. How do you interpret the dog's perspective in the story?
  3. Can you think of a situation in your life where inherent qualities played a role in the outcome?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Overlooked Factor"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.