LESSON PLAN

The Penitent Elector

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	45 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of regret. Ask students if they have ever felt regret for a decision and how it influenced their future choices. Share a relatable example.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read 'The Penitent Elector' aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to discuss the Elector’s emotions and motivations. Encourage students to visualize the scenes and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the Elector’s character arc. Have them answer questions about his initial thoughts, his moment of realization, and the actions he took afterward. Each group will then share their insights with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to write a short personal reflection on a time they experienced regret and what they learned from it. Encourage

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STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Penitent Elector; **Moral**: Regret for past actions can lead to personal growth and a desire for self-improvement.
- **Plot Summary**: The story revolves around a Sovereign Elector who reflects on a deceased member of the Society for Passing Resolutions of Respect. Upon hearing the resolutions, he is struck with remorse for having voted against the deceased for a position. This regret drives him to take a significant step in his life: learning to read, thus symbolizing his desire for self-improvement.
- **Key Characters and their Significance**:
  - **Sovereign Elector**: Represents individuals who, after recognizing their mistakes, seek to change and improve themselves.
  - **Deceased Member**: Serves as a catalyst for the Elector's transformation and highlights the impact of our decisions on others.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will identify the moral of 'The Penitent Elector' and relate it to the broader theme of regret and self-improvement.
- Students will analyze the character development of the Sovereign Elector throughout the story.
- Students will compare and contrast this fable with other famous fables with moral lessons.
- Students will articulate how unique moral stories can influence personal behavior.
- Students will apply the lessons from the story to their own lives, discussing ways to address past mistakes.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What specific actions led the Sovereign Elector to feel regret, and how did this affect his character?
  2. How does 'The Penitent Elector' compare to other impactful moral stories you know?
  3. In what ways can reflecting on our past actions lead to personal growth?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of 'The Penitent Elector' story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students

✓ Original text available on the story page.