LESSON PLAN

The Return of the Representative

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** The Return of the Representative - The story illustrates how public outrage can be quickly transformed into blind admiration, highlighting the fickle nature of public opinion and the disconnect between representatives and their constituents.
- **Plot Summary:** The people of an Assembly District gather to discuss punishment for their disgraced representative. As they propose extreme measures, their anger dissipates when the representative arrives in style, accompanied by music and celebration, revealing the instability of their sentiments.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance:**
  - **The Representative:** A symbol of the disconnect between elected officials and their constituents, embodying the fickleness of public opinion.
  - **The Old Man:** Represents wisdom and the voice of reason amidst the chaos, suggesting a more pragmatic approach to conflict.

- **The Crowd:** Illustrates the mob mentality and how quickly emotions can shift based on appearances.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will analyze the themes of public opinion and representation.
  - Students will identify key character traits and their significance to the moral of the story.
  - Students will discuss the implications of mob mentality in decision-making.
  - Students will compare this story to other classic moral stories and their underlying messages.
  - Students will articulate their personal reflections on the story's moral.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. How does the crowd's attitude toward the representative change throughout the story?
  2. What role does the old man's suggestion play in the narrative?
  3. Can you think of a real-life situation where public opinion shifted dramatically? What factors contributed to that change?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of “The Return of the Representative”
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students
  - Projector for visual aids (if necessary)

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion about how public opinion can change quickly. Ask students if they have ever changed their opinion about a person or event after hearing new information.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read the story aloud to the class. As you read, pause to ask questions about the characters' emotions and motivations. Encourage students to visualize the scene as it unfolds.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Split students into small groups. Assign each group one of the key characters to analyze. Ask them to discuss the character's motivations, actions, and what they represent in the story. Each group will present their findings to the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Have students write a short reflection on how the moral of the story relates to real-life situations they have observed or experienced. Encourage them to think about the role of social media in shaping public opinion.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Collect the reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.