LESSON PLAN

The Snake and the Swallow

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** The Snake and the Swallow
- **Moral/Theme:** Justice can sometimes be perverted, leading to greater harm than the initial threat.
- **Plot Summary:** In a court of justice, a Swallow raises her young. When a Snake threatens to eat them, the Just Judge intervenes. However, instead of saving the young birds, he decides to eat them himself, showcasing a perversion of justice.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **Swallow:** Represents innocence and maternal instincts.
  - **Snake:** Embodies the threat and danger present in the world.
  - **Just Judge:** Symbolizes authority and the potential flaws within the justice system.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

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

- Students will analyze the actions of the characters and their consequences.
- Students will explore the concept of justice and its complexities.
- Students will relate the story to real-world examples of moral dilemmas.

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of justice?
  2. How can the actions of the Just Judge be interpreted differently?
  3. In what ways does this story reflect or challenge your understanding of fairness?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of "The Snake and the Swallow"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for notes
  - Visual aids depicting the characters or scenes from the story

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
  - Begin with a humorous anecdote related to justice gone wrong to capture students' attention and set the tone for the lesson.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**
  - Read "The Snake and the Swallow" aloud to the class. Encourage students to visualize the scenes and relate to the characters’ emotions.

- Pause during key moments to ask students for their predictions and thoughts.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
  - Divide students into small groups to discuss the actions of each character.
  - Have them create a cause-and-effect chart that illustrates how each decision leads to the story's outcome.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
  - Ask students to reflect on a time they witnessed or experienced something that felt unjust. How did they respond, and what was the outcome?
  - Share reflections with the class.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
  - Conduct a quick quiz or exit slip where students summarize the moral of the story in their own words and provide one real-world example of perverted justice.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Have students write their own moral-based stories inspired by "The Snake and the Swallow," focusing on different outcomes.
  - Create a class debate