LESSON PLAN

The Statesman and the Horse

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a thought-provoking question: "What would you give up to achieve your dreams?" Allow students to share their thoughts briefly.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud or have students read in pairs. Discuss key points and characters. Ask students to highlight sections that resonate with them.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters' motivations. Each group will discuss how ambition shapes the characters' actions and the irony present in the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time when they faced a choice between ambition and personal relationships. Encourage them to connect their experiences to the story's moral.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Ask students to share their reflections and insights. Use a quick thumbs-up/thumbs-down method to gauge understanding of the moral.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title**: The Statesman and the Horse
- **Moral/Theme**: The story illustrates the irony of ambition and the sacrifices made in pursuit of success, often at the expense of one's true companions and values.
- **Plot Summary**: A statesman, who has successfully saved his country, encounters a racehorse rushing to catch up with its master. The horse reveals that its master is the very statesman who saved the country, highlighting the irony of ambition and the cost of success. The statesman reflects on the sacrifices made for success, realizing that ambition can lead one astray from true values and relationships.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Statesman**: Represents ambition and the burden of success, reflecting on the sacrifices made in pursuit of goals.
  - **The Race Horse**: Symbolizes loyalty and the cost of ambition, showcasing the sacrifices made for the sake of following one's master.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and articulate its relevance to personal experiences.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and the implications of their choices.
  - Students will discuss the theme of ambition and its potential consequences in their own lives.
  - Students will reflect on the values that are often overshadowed by ambition.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the racehorse's loyalty to its master reveal about the nature of ambition?
  2. How does the statesman's journey reflect the sacrifices that often accompany success?
  3. In what ways can we relate this story to our own ambitions and the relationships we value?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Statesman and the Horse"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Journals for note-taking and reflection

✓ Original text available on the story page.