LESSON PLAN

The Thistles upon the Grave

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a thought-provoking question: "Have you ever made a plan that didn't go the way you expected? What happened?" Allow students to share brief experiences.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Thistles upon the Grave" aloud. Pause to discuss key points and engage students in predicting the outcome.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a character to analyze (Mind Reader or Thistles).

10 min

Application/Reflection

Bring the class back together. Have groups present their findings. Then, lead a discussion on the connection between the story and real-life situations where basic needs affect decision-making.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick exit ticket: "What is one lesson you learned from the story?"

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Thistles upon the Grave; Moral: Even the most clever plans can be undermined by basic human needs and instincts.
- **Plot Summary**: A Mind Reader bets that he can be buried alive for six months without being disturbed. To prevent any interference, he has thistles planted around the grave. However, after three months, he succumbs to hunger and emerges to eat the thistles, losing the wager.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Mind Reader**: Represents human arrogance and the folly of underestimating basic needs.
  - **Thistles**: Symbolize the challenges that can thwart even the best-laid plans.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

- Students will identify the moral of the story and explain its significance.
- Students will analyze the characters' motivations and decisions.
- Students will discuss how basic human needs can influence behavior.
- Students will connect the story's themes to real-life situations.

- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the Mind Reader’s experience teach us about the limits of human cleverness?
  2. How do basic needs shape our decisions in everyday life?
  3. Can you think of a time when you had to choose between a plan and your basic needs? What happened?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Thistles upon the Grave"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for notes and reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.