LESSON PLAN

The Wooden Guns

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion about budgeting and the importance of quality versus cost. Ask students if they've ever made a decision based on savings and how that turned out.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read "The Wooden Guns" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to ask for predictions or thoughts on what the characters might do next. After reading, discuss the plot and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters. Each group will discuss the motivations of the Governor and the Regiment and how these motivations drive the story. They will then share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Have students write a short reflection on a time they faced a similar choice between cost and quality. They should consider what they learned from that experience.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Conclude with a brief quiz or exit ticket where students summarize the moral of the story in their own words and provide an example from their life that relates to it.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Wooden Guns; Moral: True preparedness and effectiveness cannot be sacrificed for mere cost savings.
- **Plot Summary**: An Artillery Regiment requests wooden guns from the Governor, arguing that they are cheaper than real ones for practice. The Governor, valuing efficiency over cost, provides real guns instead. The soldiers express gratitude, promising to return them if war arises. This tale highlights the importance of proper preparation and the dangers of cutting corners.
- **Key Characters and their Significance**:
  - **The Governor**: Represents leadership and the importance of prioritizing effectiveness over savings.
  - **The Artillery Regiment**: Embodies the tendency to seek shortcuts in preparation, demonstrating the potential pitfalls of such decisions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the moral of the story and its relevance to everyday life.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and actions.
  - Students will discuss the implications of prioritizing cost over quality in various situations.
  - Students will relate the story to other folklore and classic moral stories.
  - Students will reflect on the importance of proper preparation in their own lives.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the relationship between cost and quality in decision-making?
  2. How can we apply the moral of this story to our schoolwork or daily responsibilities?
  3. Have you encountered situations where you had to choose between saving money and ensuring quality? What did you choose and why?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Wooden Guns"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for reflection

✓ Original text available on the story page.