LESSON PLAN

Two Footpads

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** Two Footpads
- **Moral/Theme:** The story illustrates that even in wrongdoing, one's ambitions and outcomes can vary greatly, often with unexpected consequences.
- **Plot Summary:** Two Footpads recount their evening of crime in a roadside tavern, each boasting about their exploits. The First Footpad speaks of robbing the Chief of Police, while the Second Footpad brags about robbing the United States District Attorney. However, the punchline reveals a twist where the Second Footpad ended up with less than he started with, highlighting the unpredictability of their criminal pursuits.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **First Footpad:** Represents overconfidence in crime and the thrill of success.
  - **Second Footpad:** Embodies the folly of ambition, showcasing the unexpected outcomes of one's actions.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral implications of ambition and wrongdoing.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their consequences.
  - Students will identify themes of unpredictability in life-lesson moral stories.
  - Students will engage in critical thinking about choices and their outcomes.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What do you think motivated the Second Footpad to rob the District Attorney?
  2. How does the outcome of each character's actions reflect the moral of the story?
  3. Can you think of a real-life example where someone's ambition led to unexpected consequences?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "Two Footpads"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Notebooks for reflection and analysis

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**

Begin with a brief discussion on what "wrongdoing" means and ask students to share their thoughts on whether ambition can

sometimes lead to negative outcomes.

- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**

Read "Two Footpads" aloud to the class. After reading, ask students to summarize the plot in their own words to reinforce comprehension.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**

Divide students into small groups. Assign each group to discuss the motivations of each character and the outcomes of their actions. Each group will present their insights to the class.

- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on how ambition can lead to both success and failure, drawing parallels to their own lives or other short and moral stories they've encountered.

- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**

Use a quick quiz with multiple-choice and short answer questions to assess understanding of the story's plot and moral.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  1. Write a creative continuation of the story, exploring what happens next for the two footpads.
  2. Create a visual mind map of the characters and

✓ Original text available on the story page.