LESSON PLAN

Two of the Damned

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on students' experiences of joy and sorrow during holidays. Ask: "What feelings do holiday celebrations evoke for you?"

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "Two of the Damned" aloud. After reading, ask students to summarize the story in small groups, focusing on the characters' emotions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into pairs to analyze specific passages from the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students reflect in their journals about a time they felt joy and sorrow simultaneously during a celebration. Encourage them to draw connections to the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick exit ticket where students write one lesson learned from the story and one question they still have.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: "Two of the Damned" - The bittersweet nature of time and celebration, illustrating how joyous occasions can often be shadowed by feelings of isolation and despair.
- **Plot Summary**: In a desolate landscape, two forlorn beings, representing Christmas and New Year, meet under a struggling moon. They exchange hollow wishes of joy, yet their shared sorrow reveals the deep loneliness felt during what should be a festive time. Their emotional connection underscores the struggles many face even during celebrations.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **First Blighted Being (Christmas)**: Represents the joy of the holiday but also the deep sadness felt by many during this time.
  - **Second Blighted Being (New Year)**: Symbolizes new beginnings and hope, yet also the weight of expectations and isolation.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will analyze the themes of isolation and despair in celebrations.
  - Students will articulate personal reflections on the feelings associated with holidays.
  - Students will identify the emotional nuances present in short moral tales.
  - Students will discuss how well-known moral stories convey life lessons.
  - Students will compare and contrast feelings of joy and sorrow in holiday narratives.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. How do the characters' interactions reflect the complexities of holiday celebrations?
  2. What emotions does the setting evoke, and how do they contribute to the overall theme?
  3. In what ways can this story relate to our own experiences during festive times?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "Two of the Damned"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Emotional response chart

✓ Original text available on the story page.