LESSON PLAN

Two of the Pious

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

- Begin with a brief discussion on what intolerance means and ask students to share examples they might have witnessed in their own lives.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

- Read the story "Two of the Pious" aloud, encouraging students to listen for key themes. After reading, engage the class in a discussion about their initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a character to analyze. They should discuss the character's perspective, actions, and the consequences of their intolerance.

10 min

Application/Reflection

- Ask students to write a short reflection on how the story's moral can be applied to contemporary issues of intolerance.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

- Have students share their reflections in pairs to foster conversation about the story’s implications.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: "Two of the Pious" - The futility of intolerance and the destructive nature of zealotry in religious disputes.
- **Plot Summary**: In a heated debate, a Christian and a Heathen express their extreme views on each other's beliefs. The Christian wishes to eradicate the Heathen's gods, while the Heathen retaliates with a desire to eliminate the Christian's faith. Their conversation highlights the dangers of intolerance and blind zealotry.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Christian**: Represents zealotry and the conflict that arises from extreme religious beliefs.
  - **The Heathen**: Embodies the retaliatory nature of intolerance, illustrating how such attitudes can perpetuate cycles of hatred.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

    - Students will understand the theme of intolerance in the story.
    - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and their implications.
    - Students will reflect on the moral lessons conveyed through the narrative.
    - Students will connect the story to broader societal issues regarding religious beliefs.
- **Discussion Questions**:
    - What actions or words from the characters exemplify their intolerance?
    - How can we apply the moral of this story to our own lives?
    - In what ways do you think the characters could have resolved their conflict more peacefully?
- **Required Materials**:
    - Copies of the story "Two of the Pious"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper for reflection exercises