LESSON PLAN

# A Talisman

| GRADES | TIME | READING LEVEL |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9+ | 50 min | 5 |

## Lesson flow




5 min

### Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking quote about wisdom and discernment. Ask students if they believe appearances can sometimes be misleading.

15–20 min

### Story Exploration

Read "A Talisman" aloud to the class. After reading, break the students into small groups to discuss their initial reactions and thoughts on the plot and characters.

15 min

### Analysis Exercises

Each group will analyze the prominent citizen's actions and the judge's response. They will identify key phrases from the text that illustrate the moral and discuss how it relates to well-known moral stories.

10 min

### Application/Reflection

Students will write a short paragraph reflecting on a personal experience where they learned the importance of looking beyond appearances.

5 min

### Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick round of sharing where students can express their reflections. Use a rubric to assess their participation and understanding of the moral theme.

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# STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: A Talisman; The moral of the story is that true wisdom and discernment often reveal themselves through actions rather than mere appearances or claims.
- **Plot Summary**: The story revolves around a prominent citizen who is called to serve as a juror. Instead of attending, he sends a physician's certificate claiming he is afflicted with softening of the brain. The judge, however, humorously notes that the citizen does indeed have a brain, highlighting the contrast between appearance and reality.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **Prominent Citizen**: Represents those who try to evade responsibility through deceit.
  - **Judge**: Embodies wisdom and the ability to see through pretenses.

# LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the central theme of the story and its moral implications.
  - Students will analyze characters' actions and their significance in conveying the moral of the story.
  - Students will engage in discussions about the importance of discernment in everyday life.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences that relate to the story's themes.
  - Students will articulate their thoughts on appearances versus reality through group discussions.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the judge meant when he said, "he has a brain"?
  2. How do the actions of the prominent citizen reflect on societal responsibilities?
  3. In what ways can we apply the moral of this story to our daily lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "A Talisman"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for notes