LESSON PLAN

The Ancient Order

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on how titles affect our perception of authority. Ask students if they have ever felt overshadowed by a title or if they believe titles are important in leadership.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Ancient Order" aloud or have students read in pairs. Encourage them to note their reactions and thoughts about the characters and events as they unfold.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to analyze the characters' motivations and the overall message. Provide guiding questions to facilitate discussion and ask each group to share their insights with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a brief reflection on how titles impact their own lives, whether in school, sports, or other activities. Encourage them to think about times when they felt their title was more of a hindrance than a help.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Use an exit ticket where students write a sentence that captures the moral of the story. Collect these as they leave to assess understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Ancient Order - The absurdity of pomp and hierarchy, highlighting how titles can overshadow genuine leadership and purpose.
- **Plot Summary**: In a whimsical tale, the newly formed order of the Sultans of Exceeding Splendour grapples with the question of how to address its members. As members argue over lofty titles, they lose sight of the true essence of leadership and camaraderie. The absurdity culminates in the adoption of the ridiculous title "your Badgesty," illustrating the futility of excessive hierarchy.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Grand Flashing Inaccessible**: The founder whose lofty ideals set the stage for the order but inadvertently leads to its comedic downfall.
  - **Members of the Order**: Represent varying perspectives on leadership and titles, showcasing how differing values can complicate unity.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the central theme of the story.
  - Students will analyze the characters' motivations and perspectives.
  - Students will discuss the implications of hierarchical titles in leadership.
  - Students will relate the story's message to modern organizational structures.
  - Students will summarize the story’s moral in their own words.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the importance of titles in leadership?
  2. How do the characters' preferences for titles reflect their values?
  3. Can you think of a real-life example where hierarchy obscured real leadership?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Ancient Order"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Note-taking materials

✓ Original text available on the story page.