LESSON PLAN

# The Austere Governor

| GRADES | TIME | READING LEVEL |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9+ | 50 min | 4 |

## Lesson flow




5 min

### Opening hook

Start with a brief anecdote about a modern political scandal to engage students and relate to the story's theme of hypocrisy.

15–20 min

### Story exploration

Read "The Austere Governor" aloud. Pause at key moments to allow students to discuss their immediate reactions and thoughts.

15 min

### Analysis exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters' motivations and actions. Have them create a Venn diagram comparing the Governor and the Convict.

10 min

### Application/reflection

Ask students to reflect individually on how the story relates to their own experiences or current events. They can write a short paragraph summarizing their thoughts.

5 min

### Assessment strategy

Have students share their reflections in small groups, followed by a class discussion on the insights gained from their discussions.

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# STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Austere Governor; The hypocrisy of those in power.
- **2-3 sentence plot summary**: The story revolves around a Governor who visits a state prison and encounters a convict who seeks a pardon. The convict admits to abusing his office for personal gain, leading the Governor to refuse his plea. Ironically, the Governor himself is revealed to engage in similar corrupt practices.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Governor**: Represents authority and the moral double standards often found in those in power.
  - **The Convict**: A symbol of the corruption that exists among officials, highlighting the theme of hypocrisy.
  - **Mr. Warden**: An accomplice who illustrates the complicity of others in maintaining corrupt systems.

# LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the concept of hypocrisy in leadership.
  - Students will analyze the moral implications of the characters' actions.
  - Students will discuss the relevance of the story in contemporary contexts.
  - Students will identify key themes in folklore and moral stories.
  - Students will articulate their thoughts through group discussions and written reflections.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story reveal about the nature of power and corruption?
  2. How can we see similar scenarios in today's political or social landscape?
  3. In what ways do you think moral stories like "The Austere Governor" remain significant across cultures and time?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Austere Governor"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Discussion handouts
  - Reflection journals

✓ Original text available on the story page.