LESSON PLAN

The Blotted Escutcheon and the Soiled Ermine

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of owning up to one's mistakes. Ask students if they have ever tried to justify a flaw or mistake. Share a personal anecdote to set a relatable tone.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud, encouraging students to listen for the key arguments made by both characters. After reading, have a short discussion about initial reactions to the story.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Split students into small groups to analyze the characters' defenses. Each group will discuss the motivations behind the Blotted Escutcheon

and the Soiled Ermine's statements, and then present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they faced a flaw or mistake. Ask them to consider whether they tried to justify it or took responsibility for it.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude the lesson by asking students to share their reflections. Evaluate their understanding through their participation in discussions and their written reflections.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Blotted Escutcheon and the Soiled Ermine; Moral: Individuals often seek to justify their flaws rather than take responsibility for their actions.
- **Plot Summary**: The Blotted Escutcheon defends itself against accusations of being flawed, claiming its imperfections are natural and inherited. The Soiled Ermine, in a similar defense, states that its dirtiness is inherent to its nature. Both characters illustrate the tendency to blame external factors for personal shortcomings.
- **Key Characters and their significance**:
  - **Blotted Escutcheon**: Represents individuals who deflect accountability, attributing their flaws to external circumstances.

- **Soiled Ermine**: Embodies the idea of accepting one's nature, yet still seeks to rationalize its shortcomings as beyond control.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral lesson regarding accountability and self-acceptance.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their implications in the story.
  - Students will compare and contrast the defenses used by the Blotted Escutcheon and the Soiled Ermine.
  - Students will discuss how the themes of the story relate to real-life situations.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do the characters' defenses reveal about human nature?
  2. How do societal expectations influence the way we perceive flaws?
  3. In what ways can accepting responsibility lead to personal growth?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Blotted Escutcheon and the Soiled Ermine"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for each student

✓ Original text available on the story page.