LESSON PLAN

The Good Government

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking quote about government and freedom. Ask students what they think makes a government "good" and write their responses on the board.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud, emphasizing the dialogue between the Republican Form of Government and the Sovereign State. Pause at key moments to gauge understanding and reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group to analyze a specific character. Each group will answer questions about their character's motivations and significance in the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Facilitate a class discussion using the provided questions, encouraging students to connect the story to their own experiences and current events.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick exit ticket where students write one thing they learned about government and one question they still have.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Good Government; Moral: The ideal of a good government may be overshadowed by its failure to address real issues and corruption.
- **Plot summary**: In this thought-provoking tale, a Republican Form of Government boasts about the virtues of democracy and liberty while the Sovereign State laments the corruption and incompetence of its officials. The story highlights the disconnect between the government's grand rhetoric and the harsh reality faced by the citizens.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **Republican Form of Government**: Represents political ideals and the superficiality of governance that prioritizes image over substance.
  - **Sovereign State**: Symbolizes the struggles of the populace and the consequences of governmental failure, pointing out the pervasive corruption and inefficiency.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main theme of the story and its relevance to contemporary governance.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their significance in conveying the moral.
  - Students will discuss the gap between governmental ideals and realities in their own communities.
  - Students will reflect on the story's connection to historically significant moral narratives and fables.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. How does the story reflect the tension between government ideals and actual governance?
  2. What lessons can we learn about accountability in government from this story?
  3. Can you think of current examples where government rhetoric does not match reality?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Good Government"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pencils for student reflections
  - Projector for discussion prompts (optional)

✓ Original text available on the story page.