LESSON PLAN

The No Case

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	4

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Start with a brief discussion on the phrase "innocent until proven guilty" and ask students to share their thoughts on its significance.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The No Case" aloud to the class, pausing to clarify any difficult vocabulary and discussing initial reactions to the plot and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to analyze the characters and their motivations. Each group will present their findings to the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph about a time when they felt judged without sufficient evidence. Encourage them to consider how they would want to be treated in a similar situation.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz on the key themes and characters to assess understanding.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The No Case; The power of absence of evidence.
- **Plot Summary**: In this thought-provoking moral story, a statesman is unjustly indicted by a Grand Jury and finds himself imprisoned. When he requests the dismissal of his case due to lack of evidence, he presents a check as proof of that absence, highlighting the idea that sometimes, a lack of evidence can be more compelling than any accusation.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The Statesman**: Represents integrity and resilience in the face of false accusations.
  - **The District Attorney**: Embodies the legal system, illustrating how it can sometimes overlook the importance of evidence.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:

    - Students will analyze the importance of evidence in legal situations.
    - Students will discuss the implications of being accused without substantial proof.
    - Students will identify the moral lesson conveyed in the story.
    - Students will reflect on their own experiences with judgment and evidence in daily life.
- **Discussion Questions**:
    - What does the story suggest about the nature of accusations?
    - How does the absence of evidence impact the perception of guilt or innocence?
    - Can you think of real-life situations where lack of evidence has played a crucial role in public opinion?
- **Required Materials**:
    - Copies of "The No Case"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Notebooks for student reflections

✓ Original text available on the story page.