LESSON PLAN

The Penitent Thief

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	2

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on personal responsibility. Ask students to share examples of situations where they had to take responsibility for their own actions.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read "The Penitent Thief" aloud. After the reading, ask students to summarize the story in their own words, focusing on the key events and characters.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups and assign them to analyze the motivations of the boy and the mother. Have each group discuss and present their findings on how the characters' choices led to the outcome of the story.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Lead a guided reflection where students relate the story's moral to their own lives. Encourage them to think about times when they faced consequences for their actions and how they responded.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conduct a quick assessment by asking students to write a short paragraph on what they learned about personal responsibility from the story.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Penitent Thief; Moral: One must take responsibility for their own actions rather than blaming others for the consequences of their choices.
- **Plot Summary**: A boy, raised by his mother to be a thief, grows into a man who becomes a public official. When he is caught stealing and condemned to die, he blames his mother for his fate. The mother, however, points out that he is responsible for his own actions.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Boy**: Represents the consequences of poor choices and the influence of upbringing.
  - **The Mother**: Symbolizes accountability and serves as a reflection of how guidance can shape an individual's path.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the importance of personal accountability.
  - Students will be able to identify the consequences of their actions through storytelling.
  - Students will engage in critical thinking about moral choices in their own lives.
  - Students will explore how upbringing influences behavior and decisions.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What could the boy have done differently to avoid his fate?
  2. How does the mother's response highlight the concept of personal responsibility?
  3. Can you think of a time when you faced consequences for your actions? How did it make you feel?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Penitent Thief" story
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Chart paper and art supplies for group activities

✓ Original text available on the story page.