LESSON PLAN

The Shadow of the Leader

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of integrity in leadership. Ask students if they can think of a leader they admire and why, setting the stage for the story.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story aloud to the class. Pause periodically to discuss key moments and ask students for their initial reactions.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups to analyze the characters and the moral. Each group will create a character map and discuss how the actions of the leader and the shadow reflect the story's theme.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they learned about someone's true character through their actions. Encourage them to think about how this relates to the moral of the story.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Conclude with a quick class discussion where students share their reflections. Assess understanding through participation and the depth of their insights.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Shadow of the Leader; The moral is that one's character is reflected in their actions, and if one's true nature is questionable, it will ultimately be revealed.
- **Plot Summary**: In this fable, a political leader notices his shadow abandoning him and running away. When he calls it back, the shadow retorts that if he were indeed a scoundrel, it would never have left him in the first place. This story serves as a poignant reminder of the connection between our actions and our true character.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **The Political Leader**: Represents authority and the societal expectations placed upon leaders. His character is questioned through the actions of his shadow.
  - **The Shadow**: Symbolizes the leader's true character, highlighting the idea that a person's integrity is inescapable and ultimately revealed.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its implications for personal integrity.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their roles in conveying the story's message.
  - Students will connect the themes of the story to contemporary examples of leadership.
  - Students will reflect on their own actions and how they relate to their character.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the shadow represent in the context of the story?
  2. How can the moral of this fable be applied to modern leaders?
  3. Can you think of a time when someone's true character was revealed through their actions?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "The Shadow of the Leader"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and pens for students