LESSON PLAN

The Thoughtful Warden

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	5

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening hook

Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of preparation in daily life. Ask students to share experiences where being prepared made a difference.

15–20 min

Story exploration

Read the story "The Thoughtful Warden" aloud to the class. After reading, facilitate a brief summary and ask students to share their initial thoughts.

15 min

Analysis exercises

Divide students into small groups to discuss the characters' motivations and the moral of the story. Use guiding questions to help them analyze the Warden's foresight versus the mechanic's immediate concerns.

10 min

Application/reflection

Have students reflect individually on how they can apply the lesson of foresight in their own lives. Encourage them to write down specific examples or scenarios.

5 min

Assessment strategy

Conclude with a quick quiz or a few oral questions to assess understanding of key concepts from the story, focusing on character significance and moral lessons.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: The Thoughtful Warden; Importance of foresight and preparedness in the face of uncertainty.
- **Plot summary**: In this concise moral story, the Warden of a penitentiary is warned by a mechanic that the locks on the cell doors can be opened from the inside, suggesting a lack of caution. The Warden, however, reflects on the necessity of being prepared for unforeseen circumstances, illustrating the value of thoughtful planning.
- **Key characters and their significance**:
  - **The Warden**: Represents the importance of foresight and careful planning in leadership roles.
  - **The Mechanic**: Serves as a foil to the Warden, embodying skepticism and immediate concerns about safety.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to real-life situations.
  - Students will identify the key characters and their roles within the narrative.
  - Students will analyze the implications of foresight and preparedness in decision-making.
  - Students will engage in discussions about how the themes of the story relate to their own lives.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What do you think the Warden's actions say about his character?
  2. How does the mechanic's perspective contrast with that of the Warden?
  3. Can you think of a time when being prepared helped you overcome a challenge?
- **Required Materials**: Copies of the story "The Thoughtful Warden", whiteboard and markers, discussion prompts.