

Massachusetts

2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy

LESSON

Analyze Character Through Actions

A Light in the Darkness

TEACHES

RL.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text states explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students infer a character quality from actions and support the interpretation with specific details from the text.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09 TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA |
STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

Analyze Character Through Actions

A Light in the Darkness

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Infer what Willie's repeated actions reveal about his purpose and character.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A two-part character claim supported by two actions from different moments in the text.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What do Willie's actions reveal that he does not state directly?

TEXT FOCUS

Willie's decision to act through visible menorahs rather than a long explanation.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Name the pattern | 3 min Identify two actions Willie repeats or extends.
2. Connect action to purpose | 5 min For each action, state what goal it serves.
3. Infer the trait | 5 min Choose a trait or purpose that both actions support and explain why.
4. Write the claim | 5 min Write: Willie is/tries to ____; we can tell because ____ and ____.
5. Check | 2 min Remove any claim that is not supported by both actions.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

Willie acts strategically and persistently: he turns a private symbol into a visible community response instead of relying only on explanation.

LOOK FOR

- Names two accurate actions.
- Makes one inference that fits both actions.
- Explains the link between action and inference.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson