

English IV

The Black Arrow by Robert Louis Stevenson: Read and be prepared to discuss when classes begin.

As you prepare for the discussion on Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Black Arrow," consider the rich themes and questions that the novel presents. Set during the tumultuous period of the Wars of the Roses, the story explores themes of loyalty, honor, and justice through the journey of its protagonist, Richard "Dick" Shelton. Dick's quest for identity and truth is central to the narrative, as he grapples with the complexities of allegiance and betrayal in a world where moral lines are often blurred. The novel vividly portrays the struggle for power and the impact of political conflict on individuals and communities. The romantic subplot involving Dick and Joanna Sedley adds depth to the narrative, highlighting themes of love and perseverance amidst adversity. Stevenson's use of historical context enriches the story, providing a backdrop that enhances the tension and drama. As you reflect on these themes, consider how the characters' actions and choices resonate with broader questions of morality and justice. This understanding will equip you for a meaningful and insightful classroom discussion.