LESSON PLAN

Hercules and the Carter

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** Hercules and the Carter
- **Moral/Theme:** One must take initiative and put in effort to overcome difficulties rather than relying solely on external help.
- **Plot Summary:** A Carter finds himself stuck in a rut while transporting a load of goods. Instead of taking action to free his wagon, he prays to Hercules for help. Hercules, however, admonishes him for his laziness and encourages him to take matters into his own hands. The Carter learns the importance of self-reliance and effort as he ultimately frees his wagon by removing some of the load.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **The Carter:** Represents the human tendency to seek help without putting in the necessary effort. His journey reflects the importance of initiative.
  - **Hercules:** A symbol of strength and wisdom, he represents the idea that true help comes when one takes action themselves.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance in everyday life.
  - Students will learn to identify themes of self-reliance and initiative in literature.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of inaction and reliance on external help.
  - Students will practice critical thinking by analyzing the actions of the characters.
  - Students will create personal connections to the moral lesson.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. Why did the Carter initially seek help from Hercules instead of trying to solve his problem himself?
  2. How does Hercules's response to the Carter illustrate the moral of the story?
  3. Can you think of a time when you faced a challenge and how taking initiative helped you overcome it?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Printed copies of the story "Hercules and the Carter"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Worksheets for analysis exercises

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**

    - Begin with a short discussion on the importance of self-reliance. Ask students to share times when they overcame difficulties on their own.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**
    - Read the story "Hercules and the Carter" aloud to the class.
    - After reading, allow students a few minutes to reflect on the story's content.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
    - Divide students into small groups to analyze the Carter's actions and Hercules's response. Encourage them to identify key moments that illustrate the moral.
    - Each group will present their findings to the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
    - Ask students to write a brief paragraph about a personal experience where they had to take initiative.
    - Discuss how they felt before, during, and after taking action.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
    - Conclude with a quick quiz on the moral