LESSON PLAN

Hercules and the Wagoner

GRADES
2–5

READING LEVEL
3

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme:** Hercules and the Wagoner; The moral of the story is that one must take initiative and make an effort to solve their problems before seeking external help.
- **Plot Summary:** A carter finds himself in a predicament when his wagon's wheels become stuck in a rut. Instead of trying to resolve the issue, he cries out for Hercules' assistance. Hercules appears and encourages the carter to take action himself, teaching him the importance of self-reliance.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **The Carter:** Represents those who rely on others for help instead of taking initiative.
  - **Hercules:** Symbolizes strength and wisdom, illustrating the importance of self-help.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the importance of self-reliance.

- Students will be able to identify the moral lesson in the story.
- Students will discuss how perseverance can lead to success.
- Students will create their own short stories with a moral inspired by "Hercules and the Wagoner."

- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. Why do you think the carter chose to cry for help instead of trying to solve the problem himself?
  2. What might have happened if Hercules had simply lifted the wagon out of the rut?
  3. Can you think of a time when you faced a challenge and had to rely on your own efforts to overcome it?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story, "Hercules and the Wagoner"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for story creation
  - Optional: Illustrations of Hercules and the carter

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
  - Begin with a humorous anecdote about trying to get help for a small problem, engaging students and highlighting the theme of self-help.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**
  - Read "Hercules and the Wagoner" aloud to the class.
  - Discuss key points of the story, focusing on the carter's inaction and Hercules’ advice.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
  - Divide students into small groups and have them discuss the moral of the story.
  - Encourage them to relate the story to real-life scenarios where self-help is important.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
  - Have students write a short paragraph reflecting on a time they faced a challenge and how they handled it.
  - Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
  - Gather feedback on what students learned about self-help and perseverance through a quick class discussion or exit ticket.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  1. Students create their

✓ Original text available on the story page.