LESSON PLAN

Mercury and the Sculptor

GRADES	READING LEVEL
2–6	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** Mercury and the Sculptor
- **Moral/Theme:** The story illustrates that true worth is often unrecognized, and those who contribute greatly may be undervalued by others.
- **Plot Summary:** In an effort to gauge his worth among mortals, Mercury disguises himself as a man and visits a Sculptor's studio. After inquiring about the prices of various statues, he highlights his own statue, expecting it to be valued highly due to his divine status. However, the Sculptor dismissively includes it as a freebie, revealing the undervaluation of Mercury’s contributions.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **Mercury:** The Messenger of the Gods, representing the theme of unrecognized worth.
  - **The Sculptor:** A representation of humanity, who fails to appreciate Mercury's true significance.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and discuss its implications.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their significance in the narrative.
  - Students will explore themes of recognition and worth in personal and societal contexts.
  - Students will relate the story to modern situations where contributions may go unrecognized.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  - What does the Sculptor's response tell us about human nature and the way we value contributions?
  - Can you think of a situation in your life where your efforts were overlooked? How did it make you feel?
  - How can we ensure that we recognize and appreciate the contributions of others in our daily lives?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Copies of the story "Mercury and the Sculptor"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for notes and reflections

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):**
  - Begin with a brief discussion on the importance of recognition. Ask students to think of someone whose contributions they appreciate but may not always acknowledge.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):**

    - Read the story aloud or have students read it in groups. After reading, engage the class in a discussion about their initial impressions.
- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):**
    - Break students into small groups to analyze character motivations. Each group will discuss Mercury's expectations versus the Sculptor's reality and prepare to share their insights with the class.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):**
    - Students will write a short reflection on a time they felt undervalued and how that experience shaped their perspective on recognition and worth.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):**
    - Conduct a quick class poll or exit ticket where students write down one key takeaway from the lesson regarding the moral of the story.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
    - Create a visual art project where students illustrate a scene from the