LESSON PLAN

The Ass's Brains

GRADES	READING LEVEL
2–5	4

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title:** The Ass's Brains
- **Moral/Theme:** Cunning and intelligence can outsmart brute strength, while naivety can lead to one's downfall.
- **Plot Summary:** In this fable, the Lion and the Fox conspire to trap the Ass by proposing a false alliance. The Ass, excited by the prospect of joining forces with the powerful Lion, falls into their trap. Ultimately, the Fox consumes the Ass's brains, revealing that the Ass's lack of wisdom led to its demise.
- **Key Characters:**
  - **The Lion:** Represents brute strength and power, but also cunning.
  - **The Fox:** Embodies cleverness and wit, manipulating the situation to his advantage.
  - **The Ass:** Symbolizes naivety and lack of wisdom, ultimately falling victim to his own ignorance.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Students will identify the key elements of a fable and its moral.
  - Students will analyze character motivations and their effects on the story's outcome.
  - Students will discuss the implications of intelligence versus strength in real-life scenarios.
  - Students will reflect on personal experiences where wit or intelligence played a role in problem-solving.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  1. What traits do the Lion, Fox, and Ass represent, and how do these traits affect their actions?
  2. How does the ending of the story reinforce the moral lesson?
  3. Can you think of a time when you had to use intelligence to solve a problem instead of relying on strength?
- **Required Materials:**
  - Printed copies of "The Ass's Brains"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Character analysis worksheets

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening Hook (5 min):** Start with a quick discussion on what students think makes a story a fable. Ask if they can recall any other short and sweet moral stories.
- **Story Exploration (15-20 min):** Read "The Ass's Brains" aloud to the class. Engage students by asking them to make predictions about the characters' actions as the story unfolds.

- **Analysis Exercises (15 min):** Group students and assign each group a character. Ask them to analyze their character's motivations and discuss how their traits influenced the story's outcome. Use character analysis worksheets for structured responses.
- **Application/Reflection (10 min):** Facilitate a class discussion on the moral of the story. Ask students to share examples from their lives or other stories where wit or intelligence prevailed over strength.
- **Assessment Strategy (5 min):** Conduct a quick quiz with true/false and multiple-choice questions about the story's characters and moral.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension Activities:**
  - Have students write their own fable stories with a moral lesson similar

✓ Original text available on the story page.