LESSON PLAN

The Man and the Lightning

GRADES	READING LEVEL
9+	5

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme:** The Man and the Lightning; Moral: Persistence and endurance often outweigh momentary speed and power.
- **Plot summary:** In this entertaining moral story, a man running for political office finds himself overtaken by lightning. The lightning boasts about its speed, but the man counters that his endurance will ultimately prevail. This simple moral tale emphasizes the virtues of persistence over fleeting advantages.
- **Key characters and their significance:**
  - **The Man Running for Office:** Represents persistence and determination in the face of challenges.
  - **Lightning:** Symbolizes speed and power, illustrating the idea that quick success is not always sustainable.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning objectives:**

    - Students will understand the importance of persistence and endurance in achieving long-term goals.
    - Students will analyze the characters and their motivations in the story.
    - Students will discuss how the moral of the story applies to their own lives.
    - Students will create their own short moral tales inspired by "The Man and the Lightning."
- **Discussion questions:**
    - What does the lightning's speed represent in our lives?
    - How can we apply the lesson of this story to our personal or academic challenges?
    - Can you think of a time when persistence helped you achieve something important?
- **Required materials:**
    - Copies of the story "The Man and the Lightning"
    - Whiteboard and markers
    - Paper and writing utensils for students

LESSON FLOW

- **Opening hook (5 min):** Begin with a brief discussion on the concept of speed versus endurance. Ask students to think of examples in sports or academics where one was favored over the other.
- **Story exploration (15-20 min):** Read the story aloud to the class. After reading, encourage students to share their initial reactions and thoughts on the characters and plot.

- **Analysis exercises (15 min):** Divide students into small groups. Each group will analyze one character from the story and discuss their significance. Groups will share their findings with the class.
- **Application/reflection (10 min):** Facilitate a class discussion on how the moral of the story can be applied in real life. Encourage students to reflect on their own experiences of persistence.
- **Assessment strategy (5 min):** Have students write a short paragraph summarizing the moral of the story and how they plan to apply it in their lives.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- **Extension activities:**
  - Students can write their own simple moral stories, incorporating lessons of persistence.
  - Create a visual poster displaying the moral of the story and related examples from their lives.
- **Differentiation strategies:**
  - Provide advanced students with more complex texts to analyze alongside "The Man and the Lightning."
  - Offer additional support and graphic organizers for students who may struggle with writing or comprehension