



Lesson Plan

Facing the Lion

Created: 04/2023 by the National FFA Organization

Description of Lesson: *We all have “lions” in our lives that cause us to have pain, fear or struggles. In his retiring address, 2021-22 National FFA Southern Region Vice President Erik Robinson shares how to face that lion and turn your pain, fear and struggle into strength, courage and wisdom.*

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing these activities, students will...

1. Identify challenges in their lives.
2. Describe how to turn challenges into positive outcomes.

Suggested Grade Level:

Grades 9 and 10 (This lesson is written so instructors can scale up or down based on class needs.)

Suggested Time: 60 minutes (*Time requirements may vary based upon student understanding and class schedule.)

Resources/References:

1. Video: “Facing the Lion” | Erik Robinson 2022 Retiring Address, <https://vimeo.com/779345912>

Related Resources:

1. Retiring Addresses and Keynote Speeches, [FFA.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/](https://ffa.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/)
2. Spanish version: <https://ffa.box.com/s/gu8khttyfispk0nbazzdwo3ulb5t12iu>

Spanish Translations:

1. A copy of the “Facing the Lion” worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the video in real time or embed it in a PowerPoint ahead of time

Equipment and Supplies Needed:

1. A copy of the “Facing the Lion” worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the video in real time or embed it in a PowerPoint ahead of time

Vocabulary:

1. Strength
2. Courage
3. Wisdom

Cross-Curricular Connections:

English/Language Arts

Students recognize and reflect on outcomes that come from certain situations, cause and effect.

Name: _____

Virtual Instruction Ideas:

Have students download and watch the video on a device of their choice and complete the worksheet.

Student Activity Sheets:

PDF: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218329049625>

Word: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218331758000>

Non-Design Word: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218326239388>

Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_uVuSx3YJ4E-_OFqwwU82aRgdoezYT27QjHzEDWjg8/copy

These Activities Are Aligned to the Following Standards:

FFA Precept

- FFA.PL-A.Action: Assume responsibility and take the necessary steps to achieve the desired results, no matter what the goal or task at hand.
- FFA.PL-E.Awareness: Understand personal vision, mission and goals.
- FFA.PL-F.Continuous Improvement: Accept responsibility for learning and personal growth.
- FFA.PG-J.Mental Growth: Embrace cognitive and intellectual development relative to reasoning, thinking and coping.
- FFA.PG-L.Spiritual Growth: Define personal beliefs, values, principles and sense of balance.

Common Core – Writing

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Common Core – Speaking and Listening

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- CRP.04. Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods.
- CRP.05. Consider the environmental, social and economic impact of decisions. Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organizations and the environment.
- CRP.06. Demonstrate creativity and innovation. Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization.
- CRP.08. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.
- CRP.09. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Global Awareness
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Think Creatively

Name: _____

Lesson Plan:

1. **Bell Ringer:** Animals are often associated with specific meanings, such as owls representing wisdom. Name one thing that you think can be associated with lions.
2. **Introduction:** Hand out the “Facing the Lion” worksheet to each student. *Today, we are going to watch a retiring address from the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo. This retiring address was given by 2021-22 National FFA Southern Region Vice President Erik Robinson. In his speech, we will learn how to overcome challenging situations. As we are watching the video, look over the questions on the worksheet “Conquering Lions” and be ready for the answers as you view the video.*
3. **Activity:** Each student needs a copy of the worksheet “Facing the Lion.”
 - a. **Part 1:** Have students watch the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Southern Region Vice President Erik Robinson. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/779345912>. While students view the video, have them complete the questions.
 - b. **Part 2:** Students will analyze a lion (a challenge) in their lives more closely to recognize how the situation helped them grow.
4. **Follow-up:** Pair or group students to share their charts in Part 2. Encourage students to discuss their “lions,” or challenges, and how conquering them produced personal growth.
5. **Exit Ticket:** Name one method you might use, based on class discussions, to conquer future “lions.”

Name: _____

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-E; FFA.PL-F; FFA.PG-J; FFA.PG-L; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3;
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CRP.04; CRP.05; CRP.06; CRP.08; CRP.09

Facing the Lion

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching "Facing the Lion," the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Southern Region Vice President Erik Robinson. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/779345912>.

What Disney movie is referenced in the beginning of the retiring address?

- a) *Frozen*
- b) *Lion King*
- c) *Toy Story*



Why do you think lions hang out in the tall grass?



"A lion we're going to conquer ..."

Erik mentions conquering lions and that lions are something we face, like a challenge.
What is a lion in your life that you are facing?

How do you plan to overcome your lion?

Name: _____

Erik teaches us that in Kenya, historically, members of the Maasai Tribe hunt a lion to celebrate adulthood. However, hunting a lion to celebrate is no longer practiced. Why do you think that is?



What are three things that Erik says make up the “True Lion”?

1)	2)	3)
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What injury sidelined Erik from track and football in seventh grade?

After he healed, why was Erik not ready for tryouts the next year?

When he didn’t make the track team, what did Erik’s dad tell him?

“Learn _____.”

Describe a time that you were not selected, such as for a sports team or chapter officer position. What did you learn from this?

What are three things that Erik says conquering our lions will help us gain?

1)	2)	3)
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Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Refer to your example of a lion in Part 1 (bottom of Page 1) Using this lion, or a new lion that you can think of, fill out the chart below. This will help you analyze how conquering this lion helped you find strength, courage and wisdom from the situation.

When facing your lion, what happened to trigger the feelings listed below?	By conquering your lion, how did these feelings turn into the virtues listed below?
PAIN	STRENGTH
FEAR	COURAGE
STRUGGLE	WISDOM

Name: _____

KEY: Facing the Lion

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching “Facing the Lion,” the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Southern Region Vice President Erik Robinson. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/779345912>.

What Disney movie is referenced in the beginning of the retiring address?

- a) Frozen
- ☒ b) Lion King
- c) Toy Story



Why do you think lions hang out in the tall grass?

Lions use the tall grass as a form of camouflage or protection



“A lion we’re going to conquer ...”

Erik mentions conquering lions and that lions are something we face, like a challenge.

What is a lion in your life that you are facing?

Answers will vary.

How do you plan to overcome your lion?

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Erik teaches us that in Kenya, historically, members of the Maasai Tribe hunt a lion to celebrate adulthood. However, hunting a lion to celebrate is no longer practiced. Why do you think that is?

There are new conservation efforts to protect lions.



What are three things that Erik says make up the "True Lion"?

1) Pain

2) Fear

3) Struggle



What injury sidelined Erik from track and football in seventh grade?

Tore his patella tendon (injured his knee)

After he healed, why was Erik not ready for tryouts the next year?

He didn't put in the work.

When he didn't make the track team, what did Erik's dad tell him?

"Learn from this."

Describe a time that you were not selected, such as for a sports team or chapter officer position. What did you learn from this?

Answers will vary.

What are three things that Erik says conquering our lions will help us gain?

1) Courage

2) Strength

3) Wisdom

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Refer to your example of a lion in Part 1 (bottom of Page 1). Using this lion, or a new lion that you can think of, fill out the chart below. This will help you analyze how conquering this lion helped you find strength, courage and wisdom from the situation.

When facing your lion, what happened to trigger the feelings listed below?	By conquering your lion, how did these feelings turn into the virtues listed below?
PAIN Answers will vary.	STRENGTH Answers will vary.
FEAR Answers will vary.	COURAGE Answers will vary.
STRUGGLE Answers will vary.	WISDOM Answers will vary.