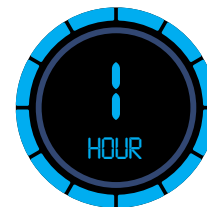


# TEACHER NOTES

## FAILURE BEFORE SUCCESS

### LEARNING TIME (1 HOUR)

LESSON OBJECTIVE: TO UNDERSTAND THE THEME OF 'FAILURE BEFORE SUCCESS' AND HOW THIS CAN BE APPLIED TO PRESENT DAY ROLE MODELS.



### RESOURCES

- ✓ Slide Deck [DOWNLOAD SLIDE DECK](#)
- ✓ Student Worksheet 1 - Failure Before Success
- ✓ Post-it Notes

### INTRODUCTION (10 MINS)

Project the following question (**Slide 2**):



**In the production, Doc Brown says:**

“YOU KNOW HOW MANY TRIES IT TOOK EDISON TO GET THE LIGHT BULB RIGHT?”  
**How many do you think it was?**

When students have had time to guess and discuss how many times. Project **Slide 3**:

**“We have the scene in the show where Doc Brown says,**

‘YOU KNOW HOW MANY TRIES IT TOOK EDISON TO GET THE LIGHT BULB RIGHT?’ IT WAS LIKE 10,000, I BELIEVE, 10,000 EXPERIMENTS WITH DIFFERENT FILAMENTS UNTIL HE FOUND THE RIGHT ONE THAT WORKED. FAILURE IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO GET TO SUCCESS, AND I THINK THAT’S A LESSON THAT ISN’T TAUGHT WELL ENOUGH.”

**BOB GALE, WRITER**

### DISCUSSION:

Are you surprised by this? If not, why? Do you agree that failure is important to succeed?

### MAIN ACTIVITY 1 - THE DREAMERS (20 MINS)

Hand out Student Worksheet 1 - Failure Before Success and project Slide 5. Give students five minutes to complete Tasks 1 & 2: Highlight the challenges and moments of failure in their lives, which ultimately led to success and a favourite quote from a modern 'hero'. Take five minutes to share ideas.



## DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions on **Slide 5**:

- 1) Why are the scientists important role models for Doc?
- 2) How is Doc viewed by society, as someone who is trying to create something innovative, new or deemed 'impossible'?
- 3) Have you ever failed before finally succeeding? Share ideas.
- 4) Is it failure or is it just problem solving?

## MAIN ACTIVITY 2 - CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING (20 MINS)

Share **Slide 6**. Ask students to brainstorm ideas about how translating the film, **BACK TO THE FUTURE**, onto the stage would have involved 'failing' and overcoming challenges:



**Slide 6:** All the creatives involved with the show loved how challenging **BACK TO THE FUTURE: The Musical** was, and how much problem-solving was involved. How do you think they had to work, to overcome these challenges? What qualities and skills do they need?

Divide your class into groups and allocate one of the following moments in the production to each group:

- The DeLorean driving to 88mph
- Time-travel sequences
- The DeLorean flying
- Doc climbing up the clock tower
- Biff chasing Marty through the school (end of Act 1)

Feedback and discuss ideas.

Share **Slide 7: Qualities**. Why are the following qualities important when creating theatre:

- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Self-belief
- Determination
- Aspiration

Share **Slide 8**: What the creatives said about working on the show.

## FINISHER (10 MINS)

Share **Slide 9**: Your Future Self. The final task is for students to focus on something they want to achieve in the future and picture themselves achieving it. As their future self, looking back, what advice would they give to your younger self about 'failure before success'?



Post ideas as 'exit tickets' or create a collage on the wall to share final thoughts and reflections.