How does a character learn an important lesson?

From Tragedy to Triumph

One day, while waiting for a train in Philadelphia, twenty-seven-year-old April Holmes fell onto the tracks. The oncoming train ran over her left leg, which had to be amputated below the knee.

For most people, a brutal accident like that would mean the end of a running career; for Holmes it was the start. Holmes had been a track star in high school and college, specializing in the short races known as sprints. At the time of the accident, she no longer ran competitively. Inspired by magazines about Paralympics athletes that a doctor gave to her in the hospital, she decided to run again. She was not embarrassed or ashamed to wear a prosthetic leg. She began training as a sprinter only seven months after her accident.

“When you fall down in life you need to get back up and keep on going,” Holmes says. “Whether that be with a prosthesis, with crutches or with a wheelchair, my spirit is still the same.”

TARGET VOCABULARY
- opponents
- obvious
- brutal
- typically
- gorgeous
- sweeping
- embarrassed
- offically
- preliminary

GENRE
Informational text, such as this newspaper article, gives details, facts, and examples about a topic.

TEXT FOCUS
Informational text may include graphic sources that give additional information and show how different facts and numbers relate to each other and the text.

Media Literacy
Newspaper articles and websites about the same topic use different types of language. Newspapers often use more formal words than do website articles or blogs.

Vowel Sounds: /ou/, /ô/, /oi/

Singular and Plural Nouns
- ounce
- sprawl
- launch
- loyal
- avoid
- basketball
- moist
- haunt
- scowl
- naughty
- destroy
- saucer
- pounce
- poison
- August
- auction
- royal
- coward
- awkward
- encounter

Suffixes -ly, -ful

Stressed and Unstressed Syllables

Stressed Syllables: /ou/, /ô/, /oi/

Unstressed Syllables: /ou/, /ô/, /oi/

Write to Express
Focus Trait: Voice

Big Idea
We never stop learning.

Essential Question
How does a character learn an important lesson?