

STUDENT WORKSHEET 1

FAILURE BEFORE SUCCESS

“THESE VISIONARIES, MY HEROES, ALL HAD DREAMS AND THEY NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING IN THEM.”

DOC BROWN

TASK 1

Read through the following information and highlight the challenges and moments of failure in their lives, which ultimately led to success.

ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955)

Einstein was an extraordinary physicist, whose ideas about space and time changed the world. He left school at the age of 15, as he struggled with the discipline but still wrote his first scholarly paper at the age of 16, in which he discussed the force of magnetism. He failed to find work as a maths and physics teacher so decided to pursue a PHD instead. He then went on to develop his ‘theory of relativity’, which he developed over ten years, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1921, an award for major scientific accomplishments.

MARIE CURIE

Maria Skłodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1867, as the youngest of five children. Her family was poor, and she lost her mother at a young age but was undeterred in terms of her focus and determination to study and learn. She studied physics and mathematics at university and then met Pierre Curie, whom she married in 1895. Her research work was physically demanding and often dangerous, but she persevered over many years and is now remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to finding treatments for cancer. In 1903 she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.

STEPHEN HAWKING

Stephen Hawking is one of the most influential scientists of our time. He went to study at Oxford University aged 17. At the age of 21, he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) and told that he only had two years to live. He defied doctors and lived to the age of 76. He developed theories about how the world began and wrote the book ‘A Brief History of Time’ selling over 10 million copies!

TASK 2

Highlight your favourite quote from a modern hero about the importance of failure. Share it with the class and talk about why you chose it.

“THE REAL TEST IS NOT WHETHER YOU AVOID THIS FAILURE, BECAUSE YOU WON’T. IT’S WHETHER YOU LET IT HARDEN OR SHAME YOU INTO INACTION, OR WHETHER YOU LEARN FROM IT: WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO PERSEVERE.”

BARACK OBAMA

“FAILURE IS ANOTHER STEPPING STONE TO GREATNESS.”

OPRAH WINFREY

“IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITHOUT FAILING AT SOMETHING, UNLESS YOU LIVE SO CAUTIOUSLY THAT YOU MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE LIVED AT ALL - IN WHICH CASE, YOU FAIL BY DEFAULT.”

J.K. ROWLING

“I’VE MISSED MORE THAN 9,000 SHOTS IN MY CAREER. I’VE LOST ALMOST 300 GAMES. 26 TIMES, I’VE BEEN TRUSTED TO TAKE THE GAME WINNING SHOT AND MISSED. I’VE FAILED OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY LIFE. AND THAT IS WHY I SUCCEED.”

MICHAEL JORDAN, BASKETBALL PLAYER