

Multi-Genre Collection

Following Your Dreams

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"If you can dream it, you can do it." - Walt Disney

Dear Reader,

Everyone has dreams. Whether they are to go university, become a famous entertainer, become a parent, or someday own a lavish home, everybody has one. However, a lot of people do not turn their dreams into a reality and they are left with the phrase *what if* haunting them for the rest of their life. Why is it that so many people don't follow their dreams and do what they truly love and passionate about? Is fear holding them back from doing what they are truly destined to do? Are they afraid that they will fail and be left with nothing? I am truly quite curious to know.

I have encountered many bitter people in my lifetime who despise the job they are working at. They claim that it was never something that they wanted to do. But when questioned why they are doing it if they dislike so much the answer is always, "because it's a realistic career that I can support myself and family on." People settle for things simply because it's more realistic or attainable than their actual dreams.

If every single one of us settled for easily attainable or one hundred percent realistic there would be no doctors, rock stars, movie stars, artists, or authors. Our world would be filled with people who merely settled. I firmly believe that you can do anything you set your mind to. You can achieve your dreams and goals if you only work for it and never give up. A man by the name of Walt Disney once said, "if you can dream it, you can do it."

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A Not So Typical Fairytale:

Once upon a time in a not so far away land lived a young girl by the name of Ella. She lived with her sweet loving father, slightly bitter and overdramatic stepmother, and two aggravating step sisters. Ella spent her days playing baseball with her father, studying hard in school, and keeping her lovely sisters out of trouble. Ella had many dreams. There was so much that she wanted to do in her life, such as travel the world, ride in a hot air balloon, stick her feet in every single ocean, most importantly she wish to become a doctor, a cardiothoracic surgeon to be exact. Ever since she was a little girl she was fascinated with the human body and how it worked. She planned to attend medical school at Dartmouth.

Although she believed in herself, not many other people did. A lot of people told her that she was not smart enough to become a doctor or that should would not be able to handle the pressure. But that didn't stop her, despite all the people who were against her she had one very important person on her side, her father. Whenever she began to doubt herself and her abilities to become a doctor she would turn to her father and every time he would say the same thing.

"Now Ella, achieving your dreams is not meant to be easy, especially great ones. But that does not mean you should give up. For every one person who doesn't believe in you, there's ten more that do. You can do anything you put your mind to. You have the entire world at your fingertips and an entire lifetime to achieve so much. There once was a very wise man by the name of Walt Disney, and he once said, "if you can dream it, you can do it." He would then give her a hug and leave her to think of ways on how she can accomplish her dream.

As her high school graduation approached the crunch was on and the pressure was starting to get to her. One day while she was up in her room, Meghan, her stepmother came into her room with a tearstained face. She announced that to Ella that her father had been tragically killed in a car accident

while on his way home from work. Ella was completely heartbroken. She lost not only her father but her best friend. She lost the only person who really believed in her.

For the next few weeks, Ella spent her time a state of shock. She hardly left her room, she stopped going out with her friends as much, and she even stopped studying. Her marks began to drop and one of her teachers, Mr. MacEwan noticed. One day at school he pulled her aside to have chat.

“Ella, I know you’ve just been rocked by a horrible tragedy, but I also know you have plans to become a doctor someday and I don’t want anything to happen to that plan. So I am asking you to please not forget about that dream when exams roll around. You have to do your one hundred percent best on them to get the scholarship you deserve.”

Ella looked Mr. MacEwan in the eyes and with a soft voice replied, “What’s the point of becoming a doctor anymore? The only person who ever truly believed in me is gone. My stepmother and stepsisters are hardly supportive. Who was I ever kidding? I can’t become a doctor, that just isn’t realistic.”

A small smile crept its way onto Mr. MacEwan’s face. “No one believes in you, huh? Ella, this entire school is behind you, supporting your decision to becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon. Everything single one of us knows you can do it and we expect great things from you. Forget about the people who are not on your side. Remember, if you can dream it, you can do it. Don’t ever forget that.”

Flashbacks of Ella’s father saying that exact line racked her body. She cannot give up on this dream. Her father would not have wanted that. A smile as bright as the sun took over Ella’s face.

“Thank-you so much, Mr. MacEwan. I won’t let you or anyone down. I will become a doctor. No one is going to stop me.” With final smile, she turned around and headed to her next class in a hurry. She spent her final few weeks of high school studying hard so she would ace her exams. Mr. MacEwan's advice made her realize that you should never give up on a dream. No matter what happens or how silly it seems.

Ella graduated her high school at the top of her class and received a full-tuition scholarship to Stanford University where she spent the next eight years studying to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. Both her father and Mr. MacEwan helped her realize how much potential she truly had. Without them, she may not have become a doctor and she could not possibly imagine how much she would regret her decision if she truly did give up her childhood dream.

The End.

Dear Mother,

First things first, I would like to apologize for not coming home in a while. I miss everyone so much, but I am having the time of my life out here in Los Angeles. I never expected it to be this amazing. I know you never agreed with my decision to leave home and travel to a new city, thousands of miles away to pursue my dream of becoming an actress. But I am so glad I never listened to you and came out here anyway. There are so many more opportunities out for me, more than home would ever have to offer.

All through high school you told me that a career as an actress was nothing more than a silly dream. You told me I would never make it as one, that you have to be a one in a million person to ever gain any success. You repeatedly told me that I needed to grow up and figure out a realistic and more attainable career plan. I was so angry at you for shooting down my dreams. You're my mother. You are so supposed to support my dreams one hundred percent, no matter how wild and foolish they are, not tear them apart.

The real reason I'm writing you this letter is not to let out all my high school emotions, but to tell you that I have grown a lot since moving here. All the rejected auditions and hardships out here in L.A made me understand why you acted like you did towards my dream. You were simply protecting me. You were scared to let me go out into the big bad world. You were scared to see me get rejected. Now, I'm not saying that those reasons make up for the fact that you never supported me, but I'm saying I understand why you didn't. However, I hope that as time goes on you will begin to believe in me and my abilities. There's a quote I hear quite a bit out here and it's, "if you can dream it, you can do it." Acting is my passion, it's all I ever wanted to do and I firmly believe that I can make it big in the industry. I hope you can come to accept my decision to continue to live out here and I will be home to visit before you know it.

Love always, Rose

Walt Disney: A Man With a Dream

Walter Elias Disney was a man with many great ambitions and goals. The accomplishments that he achieved decades ago are still going strong today. In his lifetime, Walt Disney co-founded Walt Disney Productions alongside his brother, Roy Disney, which is now one of the most famous and well-known movie productions in the entire world. Disney was the man who created perhaps the most famous animated character, Mickey Mouse. He won a total of twenty-two awards and founded both Disneyland and Disneyworld.

On December 5, 1901, Walt Disney was born into a family of seven. He spent most of his childhood in Marceline, Missouri, painting, drawing, and selling his work to friends, families, and neighbours. In 1911, his family packed up his three brothers and one sister they travelled to Kansas City to begin a new life. While in Kansas, Disney discovered a new love - trains. During his summer days, he would spend his time selling snacks and newspapers to those traveling by railway.

Disney took numerous drawing and photography classes at Mckinley High School in Chicago. He was also a cartoonist for the school's newspaper. While he attended Mckinley during the day, he also attended the Chicago Art Institute at night, taking more art courses. At the age of sixteen, Disney attempted to enlist in the army, but was turned away due to his age. Instead, he joined Red Cross to drive ambulances in France for a year.

When the first World War ended, Disney returned home and began working as a newspaper cartoonist. He began a small company with the help of Ubb Iwerks known as Laugh-O-Gram. However, the fame was short lived. Disney was forced to declare bankruptcy and shut down the company. He then packed up his life in Kansas City and headed out to Hollywood to start again.

A series of cartoons Disney did with Iwerks called Alice in Cartoonland soon gained fame under Walt Disney Productions and Walt Disney started to become a famous Hollywood figure. In 1925, Disney

hired Lillian Bounds as an ink-and-paint artist and after a brief romance, the couple wed and eventually had two daughters, Diane and Sharon.

On December 21, 1937, *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs*, the first full length animated movie, premiered at Carthay Theatre in Los Angeles. The movie man an astounding 1.5 million dollars, this was completely unimagined due to the fact that the movie had been released in the midst of The Great Depression. Between 1937 and 1942, Walt Disney Productions release a total of four animated movies: *Pinocchio*, *Dumbo*, *Fantasia*, and *Bambi*.

In 1955, Disney's dream of opening up an amusement park became a reality. Disneyland Park was open on July 17, 1955, and soon became a place where families would go to explore, have fun, and meet all of Walt Disney's iconic characteristics. Through the years as the theme park started gaining more fame and attention, Disneyland began to branch out around the world with parks located in Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Paris.

After only being opened for a few short years, Walt Disney had even bigger plans to open up a new theme park in Florida. However, in 1966, Disney was diagnosed with lung cancer while the park was still under construction and never got the chance to see the final results of the park. On the fifteenth of December, Walt Disney passed away. His body was cremated and his ashes were laid to rest at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles. Roy Disney carried out his brother's final dream by having the theme park completed. It officially opened in 1971 as Walt Disney World and is one of the most popular vacation destinations for families across the globe.

Walt Disney was a man with many dreams and he managed to pursue almost all of them. He has left a legacy behind because of his courage to carry out his dreams. When he was knocked down, he used that to build himself up again, which is perhaps why the things he created and did are still widely known today. He never gave up. He once said, "if you can dream it - you can do it." He and his incredible achievements are proof of how true that statement is.

A HERO HAS DIED:

As of June 28, 1981, a young man's journey has officially come to an end. Terry Fox passed away earlier today after a courageous battle with the monster that is cancer. Terry spent 143 days, running more than five thousand kilometres, to raise money for cancer research. He had hoped to run across the entire country, but unfortunately was only able to make it to Ontario.

When Terry first began his trek, it was unimaginable to think that a man, let alone one with a prosthetic leg and cancer, could make the journey through the provinces. Terry's goal was to raise one dollar for every Canadian for cancer research. He raised 24.17 million dollars during his run, just about meeting his goal of one dollar per Canadian.

Terry was a man with a dream. Terry longed for there to be a cure for cancer and although that did not happen, he gave millions of people hope. Terry also inspired many people to do what they believe in and to never give up. He showed that if you can dream it you certainly can do it.

Terry Fox may be gone but he left behind a legacy that will never fade away. I hope that for Terry's sake we find that cure to cancer. We cannot let that money go to waste. We must not give up on his dream. Many people think that we will never find a cure to the horrid disease, but we cannot listen to those people. Terry once said, "anything is possible if you try. Dreams are made possible if you try." We have to try and keep trying until a cure is found. We cannot let the disease win.


What If:

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” Long ago Walt Disney said this famous line and has since then been a quote of inspiration for millions of people across the globe. Why is it so powerful? Because it gives hope. If you can dream it, you can do it. This quote is saying that no matter what your dream is, no matter how crazy and wild it may be, if you put your mind to it you can do it. If you want to be a star athlete - do it. If you want to be a top lawyer - do it. If you want to be an award-winning author - then do it. There is no one stopping you except yourself.

Far too many people in this world give up on their dreams because they believe that they are not practical and end up regretting that choice later on in life. Don't ever think for second that you have to give up on your dream just because everyone is telling you that it isn't reasonable or realistic. The people who are against your dreams are people who were forced to give up on their own dreams long ago.

It's important that you go after your dreams and turn them into a reality. You can't walk through life in a constant state of *what if?* *What if* you became a doctor? *What if* you auditioned for that movie? *What if?* *What if?* *What if?* Don't let *what if* haunt your life. Turn that *what if* into *I'm so glad* I became a doctor and *I am so glad* I auditioned for that movie.

Don't let go of your dreams no matter how crazy they are. Sometimes crazy is what you need to do great in life. Don't let that *what if* define your life. No matter how many things are in your way or how many people are against you chasing your dreams, don't let it stop you. Don't live your life in regret and always asking yourself *what if?*



If You Can Dream it, You Can Do It: A Piece of Art

Whenever I think of dreams, one the first things that comes to mind is Disney, more specifically, the Walt Disney Castle. So many Disney movies are based on people finding their dreams and turning them into a reality. Some example include: The Princess and The Frog, The Little Mermaid, Cinderella, and so many more. I painted the Disney Castle because it is Disney's iconic trademark that represents dreams.

I painted the castle in a few different colours. I didn't do this at random. I purposely picked those colours and painted them onto the canvas in various shades to represent the good times and hardships that happen when you chase your dreams. The dark hues represents the struggles and hard times, but they eventually fade to lighter shade, representing how the difficult times will pass and once you accomplish your, goal everything will be alright. The white, running lines also represent the heartbreak and failure that come with pursuing your dreams.

At the bottom Walt Disney's famous quote, "if you can dream it, you can do it" is written at the bottom as a sign of reassurance. It's there to say that despite all the rough times that come along with accomplishing your dreams, if you put your mind to it and never give up your dreams will become a reality.

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A Final Reflection:

Through these series of ^{pieces} essays I was able to explore many different writing styles and find out what I dislike and what I enjoyed the most. It allowed me to step out of my comfort zone as a writer and write in ways that I normally do not do. I think that this project improved my writing because I was forced to step outside the box for some of the pieces.

Although I love the final results of this assignment, if I had to do it there would be some things I would've done differently. Even though all of my pieces were different from how I normally write, I wish I could've expanded and went outside the box even more. I wish I would've done some more creative pieces such as a poem, or journal entry, or even a postcard. Something that would've allowed me to express my creativity a little more.

While doing this project, I was able to step into the shoes of many different types of creators. I was able to step into shoes of a journalist, a motivational speaker, a fictional author, and even an artist. I had able to fall into their mindsets and ways of thinking in order to create these six pieces. While doing that, not only did I learn a thing or two about those types of writers, I also discovered some secrets about myself. I discovered that I really enjoy writing speeches, especially motivational ones with a fantastic message. I also rediscovered my love for writing fictional stories. I always seem to forget how much I enjoy creating stories, until I have to do one for a class. It was great to be able to let my creativity and emotions flow in the fictional piece.

My least favourite piece to write was probably the newspaper article on Terry Fox. I enjoyed writing about Terry Fox and the legacy he has left behind, but I did not particularly enjoy writing about him in a newspaper style. I appreciate journalist and all the work that goes into creating an interesting and informational newspaper, however I do not enjoy writing in that style. I've never been into journalism, it just isn't for me.

If more time was given on this project, I would probably expand some of pieces a little bit more. I would increase the length on some of them and explore deeper into some of the topics. I would've also spent a lot more time the art component of the assignment. I am not overly fond with my piece of artwork and I know if I was given more time, I would've been able to spend more time on the piece and truly perfect it.

Overall, I really enjoyed this project. It allowed me to experiment with various types of writing styles and express myself in a creative way. I learned quite about myself and my own dreams and how I should never let someone dictate whether or not I pursue them. I don't want to spend my life living with regret and have the question *what if?* always running through my mind. I learned that we can do anything we put our mind to. Like Walter Elias Disney once said, "*if you can dream it, you can do it.*"

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