

Personal Characteristics of Students Who Are Becoming Achievers...

Rate yourself in these areas. First, mark a check under **S** for all those items that indicate your strengths. Next, count the number of strengths you have checked. Then check **W** for weaknesses; BUT you are not allowed to check more weaknesses than strengths.

S	W	
___	___	I have confidence in myself.
___	___	I let my teachers know when I am having a problem and work with them in problem solving.
___	___	I am a risk-taker.
___	___	I am willing to work to make changes in myself.
___	___	I listen to those in authority over me.
___	___	I take responsibility for my problems and do not put all of the blame on others.
___	___	I work well in a group that is working on a constructive project.
___	___	I have a close friend or friends who share similar positive interests.
___	___	I am flexible and can see more than one possible solution when solving a problem.
___	___	I have an area of special interest.
___	___	I practice self-discipline and self-control.
___	___	I use my influence over others in a positive way.
___	___	I have a positive attitude toward school.
___	___	I know when I have contributed to a behavior problem or conflict.
___	___	My friends are achievers and have positive attitudes about school.
___	___	I try to have appropriate behavior.



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Character Traits

Characters from literature you have met thus far in this book are:

The Pied Piper	The Mayor of Hamelin	Fritz, the apprentice
The Sorcerer	Fritz's mother	Baker's wife
The Robot Inventor	The Emperor	The Kitchen Maid
The Nightingale	The Plotters	The Wise Man

Activity

From the list of characters decide who is most (choose any three words):

remarkable	courageous	honest	stubborn	deceitful
cowardly	rash	sincere	forlorn	angry
clumsy	weary	greedy	jovial	jealous
lonesome	gloomy	bored	eerie	inept
vain	realistic	brash	steadfast	serene
resentful	mighty	unsure	patient	trustworthy
overwhelmed				

Be sure to have a **reason** for each of your answers. Try using the following model:

_____ was _____,
 _____, and _____
 because _____
 _____.

Example

Rapunzel was ***lonesome***, ***patient***, and ***realistic*** because she spent every day and night alone in a tower where she was occasionally visited by a witch who was not her friend. She waited without complaining for a long time for her prince to come. She knew ***if she and the prince wanted to escape, she would have to cut off her long, lovely hair.***

from Becoming an Achiever

Failure

It's written in big, bold letters so you wouldn't miss it. It's something we'd all like to avoid thinking about, but it's a fact of everyone's life. It may sound strange, but every successful person has been a failure at some point in his or her life. No one is a winner every time. For example, Michael Jordan failed to make his high school basketball team! There are kids (and adults, too) who never try to do anything because they are so afraid they might not do it right. They have a fear of failure.

A famous scientist and author Dr. Isaac Asimov once said, "***Some things are worth a reasonable amount of hot water.***" In other words, you are not going to succeed and make everyone happy every time. You might get into "hot water" some of the time. You might make mistakes along the way. That's OK!

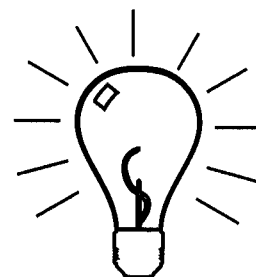
Any attempt to do something, even if it doesn't work out the way you'd hoped, is a victory...if you have the self-confidence to make the attempt. In fact, the worst failure in life is not to have tried at all.

Maybe you've thought of some things you'd like to try. Maybe you have some goals you think you can reach someday, but you are really hesitant to work on them. You may think you are not good enough or smart enough or talented enough to do them.

In the next chapter, you are going to think about setting some goals. Don't limit yourself and your attempts because you are afraid you might fail! If you do fail, **learn** from the experience and move on. That's what makes a successful person.

Think About It!

Now think about your fear of failure. What is one thing you would like to do that you have never done?



What are you afraid will happen if you try it and don't succeed?

Then what would happen?

Then what would you do?

What is the worst thing that could happen?

GOAL SETTING

or . . .

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET THERE?

1. What school related goals would like to work toward during the next grading period?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

During this school year?

a. _____

b. _____

After high school?

a. _____

b. _____

2. What personal goals would you like to achieve in the next six months?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Within the next year or two?

a. _____

b. _____

How do you expect to achieve you these goals?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

a. _____

b. _____

a. _____

b. _____

How do you hope to achieve these goals?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

a. _____

b. _____

Good Listening Habits

Standard # 6

- ▣ Concentrate totally on what the other person is saying.
- ▣ Assume an attentive attitude. (Posture, eye contact)
- ▣ Take notes if appropriate.
- ▣ Don't interrupt.
- ▣ Don't jump to conclusions.
- ▣ Share responsibility for communication. (If you don't understand, ask for clarification.)
- ▣ Draw the other person out by asking for their opinion.
- ▣ Be aware of the speaker's non-verbal behavior.
- ▣ Ask pertinent questions and use rephrasing for clarification.
- ▣ Stay on track. Concentrate on the main topic.
- ▣ Identify the type of reasoning the speaker is using.
- ▣ If you disagree, use tact and diplomacy to share your point of view.
- ▣ Listen to what the speaker is NOT saying.
- ▣ Take a breath! Slow down. Ask for a time out to think about things.
- ▣ Be understanding if English is a second language. Ask the speaker to repeat. Don't say you understand unless you really do.
- ▣ Be sensitive to cultural differences. Other people may not talk and listen the same way you do. For example, in some cultures looking someone in the eye while listening is considered rude. In other cultures, it's just the opposite. If you aren't sure what is appropriate, ASK!

FACT OR FICTION?

After his first TV appearance,
Leonardo Di Caprio
was told never to come back.





Leonardo DiCaprio

Leonardo DiCaprio was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1974. Five years later he made his first television appearance as one of the children on the popular Romper Room show. His television career began and ended that same day. He yelled, he ran around, he disrupted the cast and crew, and no one could control him. He was told not to return the next day.

Raised by very easy-going but loving parents, Leonardo spent his childhood in what he calls the “ghetto” of Hollywood. It was a rough neighborhood. Just getting from one end of a block to another was a trial. Leonardo could easily have ended up in a gang with a criminal record, but his parents sent him to a school some distance away. Not only was he assured a good education, but his friends were boys from better neighborhoods.

His first acting job was a commercial for Matchbox Cars®. He was a popular choice for commercials aimed at children since he looked much younger than his actual age and could learn lines and follow directions more easily than a younger actor.

Leonardo moved from doing more than 30 commercials to being a cast member on various television shows and finally to movies. In The Quick and the Dead, This Boys’ Life, and What’s Eating Gilbert Grape he played a troubled teen. His big break came with his role as Jack Dawson in Titanic. Many fans saw the movie six or more times. “Leomania” broke out everywhere. The little boy who was sent home from Romper Room had truly become a star!

FACT OR FICTION?

Sandra Day O'Connor
turned down 30 job offers
after graduating third in her law school class.





Sandra Day O'Connor

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, received no job offers after graduating from law school despite the fact that she ranked third in her class.

Justice O'Connor (born in 1930 in El Paso, Texas) grew up on a cattle ranch in Texas. For the first eight years of her life she was an only child. She read at the age of four, drove a tractor, and learned to shoot by the age of ten. Some said she could hit a coyote between the eyes at 40 paces. Sandra's parents were worried that the small school house available to ranch children would not give their daughter the education she needed. When Sandra was six years old, they sent her to live with her grandparents in El Paso where she could have better schooling.

Sandra excelled at her studies whether at Austin High School in El Paso or Stanford University in California. Since no one wanted to hire a woman lawyer, Sandra got a job as a law clerk after graduation. Marriage and children and a move to Arizona followed, and knowing no law firm would hire a young mother, Sandra opened her own law firm. The task of balancing motherhood with full time work as a lawyer proved difficult. She took five years off to be a full time mom but stayed active in local politics.

In 1965, Sandra went to work part time as assistant attorney-general for the State of Arizona. She moved quickly to become attorney general, a member of the state legislature, and the Arizona State Majority Leader. In 1974, she won election as a judge for the Maricopa County Superior Court and later moved to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Seven years later she was diagnosed with cancer. Friends urged her to retire, but she knew there was work still to be done. She remained at her post during her treatment and overcame the illness. She continued to serve with distinction for another eight years.

Sandra Day O'Connor exemplifies the philosophy she lives by. Any trial can be overcome with determination. Triumph will follow!

What Do You Value?

In The Nightingale, the Emperor learned that man-made things can become obsolete but that the beauty of nature endures forever.

Activity - Circle your answer

Would you rather . . .

- a. be able to spin straw into golden thread . . . or
turn anything you touched into gold?
- b. fall asleep for one hundred years . . . or . . . be changed into a frog?
- c. live in a mermaid's cave . . . or . . . in a land above the clouds?
- d. have a hen that lays golden eggs . . . or . . . a wooden spoon you can fly on?
- e. have a witch . . . or . . . a giant for an enemy?
- f. have a talking wolf . . . or . . . a troll for a friend?
- g. have an enchanted mirror . . . or
a harp that plays mysterious, magical music by itself?
- h. live by yourself in a luxurious castle (you can have no visitors) . . . or
with 100 other people in a worn shoe?
- i. be unable to lie . . . or . . . unable to tell the truth?
- j. be a beast with a human heart . . . or . . . be a human with a beast's heart?
- k. be a journey . . . or . . . the journey's end?

Choose one of your answers and write about it using the following model:

I would rather _____ than _____

because _____

Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story From China continued.**Character Report Cards**

4. Complete the following report cards for Yeh-Shen and her stepmother. Grade each item A, B, C, D, or F. Tell why you gave each grade.

Report Card for Yeh-Shen
Receives a grade of _____ in KINDNESS because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in COURAGE because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in WORKS HARD because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in CARING FOR WILD CREATURES because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in CAVE CLEANING because _____

Report Card for Stepmother
Receives a grade of _____ in KINDNESS because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in COURAGE because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in WORKS HARD because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in CARING FOR WILD CREATURES because _____
Receives a grade of _____ in CAVE CLEANING because _____

5. What Would A Character Do? Work in small groups to answer each question.
- What would Yeh-Shen do if she knocked over a large display in a super market?
 - What would Stepmother do in the same situation?
 - What would Stepmother do if a robber tried to grab her bag at the festival?
 - What would Yeh-Shen do in the same situation?
 - What would Yeh-Shen do if she found a hungry puppy on the road?
 - What would Stepmother do in the same situation?
 - What would Yeh-Shen do if she saw a large table of food at the festival?
 - What would Stepmother do in the same situation?
 - What would Stepmother do if granted one wish?
 - What would Yeh-Shen do in the same situation?