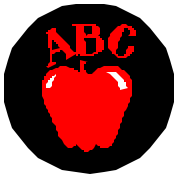


Steadfastness

“I Will” is
more important
than IQ.

“I do the very
best I know how-
the very best I
can; and I mean
to keep on doing
so until the end.”

~Abraham Lincoln~



September Character Connection Theme: Steadfastness

Definitions

Steadfastness means “fixed or unchanging, firmly loyal, or constant unswerving,” faithful.¹ Being steadfast includes completing the task, finishing projects that are difficult, and challenging oneself with new goals.

Quotes

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." -Calvin Coolidge

"You are never given a wish without also being given the power to make it come true. You may have to work for it, however." -Richard Bach

"The harder you work, the luckier you get. —McAlexander

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself." -Harry Firestone

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going." -Anonymous

"We aim above the mark to hit the mark." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."
-Franklin D. Roosevelt

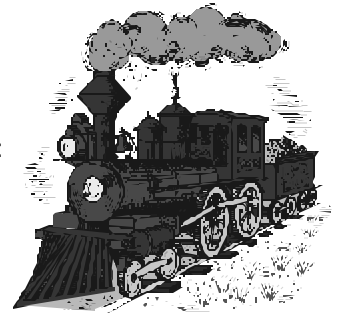
"Diamonds are nothing more than chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs."
-Malcolm Forbes

"Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go."
-William Feather

Think You Can— by Walter Wintle

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you like to win, but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost.
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will:
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are:
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But soon or late the man who wins,
Is the man who thinks he can.



¹ “steadfast,” The American Heritage Dictionary, page 1260

Activities

**Work a jigsaw puzzle together. Talk about the many small pieces and persistent individual efforts that form a beautiful whole picture.

**Place a raw egg in a bottle of vinegar. After 24 hours, the shell will be gone. Try bouncing the egg. Talk about how small consistent efforts can overcome hard problems.

**As a class memorize this poem:

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit—
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar,
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

Author--unknown

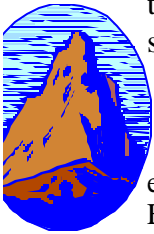


Stories

A Mother's Love

It is rumored that after a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. The story is told of one ranger that found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.



“Steadfast to the Summit”

In June 2003, enthusiasts braved the rain, with some arriving at the central London bookstore as early as 5:00 a.m. to meet an 83-year-old New Zealander, Edmund Hillary—the conqueror of Mount Everest. One admirer was proud to say that he had attended Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School in Workshop, central England, whose school motto was “Steadfast to the Summit.”²

Sir Edmund Hillary was born in 1919 and grew up in Auckland, New Zealand. He was a beekeeper by profession, but loved climbing mountains. He climbed in New Zealand, in the Himalayas, and the Alps. On May 25, 1953, Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first to scale the 29,028 foot Mount Everest. Hillary later was part of a New Zealand exploration expedition to the Antarctic. He organized many mountain climbing expeditions, but towards later years he spent his time and efforts helping the Nepalese people and country around Mount Everest.³

Hillary commented, “Strong motivation is the most important factor in getting you to the top.”⁴

²“Admirers line up to meet Everest's conqueror,” <http://deseretnews.com/dn/print/1,1442,505037795.00.html>, accessed August 13, 2003

³“Sir Edmund Hillary,” <http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/hil0bio-1/>, accessed August 13, 2003

⁴“Interview With Sir Edmund Hillary,” <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hillary/hilltran.htm>, accessed August 13, 2003

Writing or Discussion Topics

****An American named Lance Armstrong showed steadfastness by not giving up in his life. He was diagnosed with cancer that spread to his brain and lungs. He overcame the cancer and three years later rode to victory in the Tour de France. He completed one of the most improbable comebacks in sports history.⁵ Discuss what Lance could have done after going through cancer. Talk about how challenging one's self with a new goal can be rewarding and successful. Have the students think about a new goal for themselves and write about it.**

****Review the story of Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan. Talk about the steadfastness of both women. They worked with tenacity on projects that seemed impossible to accomplish. Discuss the rewards of persistence. Consider the compelling force that makes some individuals have such steadfastness to do the impossible.**

****Have students learn about the spawning of salmon fish. Have them write about the challenges of going upstream to spawn. What would happen if the salmon were to give up?**



Role Plays

****At seven years of age, James is very interested in space and wants to be an astronaut someday. What roadblocks might James find as he grows older? What can James do to keep himself focused on his goal? Is it acceptable to sometimes be sidetracked? Does James need to accomplish his goal by himself? Why are other people sometimes necessary and important in fulfilling goals?**

**** Joanna wants to be a concert pianist. She sets a goal to practice the piano 4 hours every day. She soon discovers that for her that goal was too hard to accomplish. What are the benefits and disadvantages of modifying a goal? Why is it important to be realistic in setting goals?**

****Scott has a goal to be an Eagle Scout. He is almost 18 and has not advanced in Scouting since he was 14 and a First Class Scout. Is Scott going to be able to accomplish his goal? Why is steadiness in goal achievement important? Why is it hard to catch up on all of his Scouting in such a short amount of time?**

Book List

Amber on the Mountain by Tony Johnston

Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

Lou Gehrig, The Luckiest Man by David A. Adler

Horton Hatches the Egg By Dr. Seuss

The Children's Book of Virtues

"Try, Try Again" p. 9

"Persevere" p. 10

"It Can Be Done" p. 11

"The Little Hero of Holland" p. 12

"The Tortoise and the Hare" p. 19

"The Stars in the Sky" p. 20

Mush! Across Alaska in the World's Longest Sled-Dog Race by Patricia Seibert



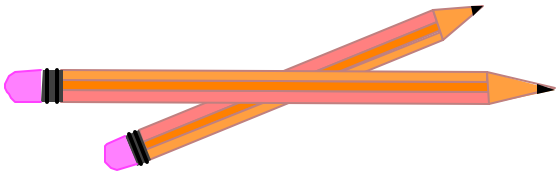
October: Honesty

November: Citizenship

December: Peace

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⁵ "Lance Armstrong—A biography," <http://www.lancearmstrong.com/lance/online2.nsf/html/bio>, accessed August 13, 2003



Name _____

Steadfastness

F M U R C B O E I K O V B E Z O J M W R
R K D D I B U P A H C E E D T K U V U Z
Y X E L E J Z H D B I T M I Z Y D T V Q
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U M M M Y C O C G K E R U D N E I K L B
L G E C V A B C H Y T I C A N E T N B Q

diligence	persistent	persistence	steadfastness
stand	constant	faithful	fixed
unchanging	steady	firm	loyal
unswerving	staunch	resolute	devoted
trustworthy	dutiful	allegiance	dedication
perseverance	tenacity	endure	abide

“Never despair; but if you do, work on in despair.” —Burke.

“Much rain wears the marble.” —Shakespeare

“Every noble work is at first impossible.” —Carlyle

“See first that the design is wise and just; that ascertained, pursue it resolutely; do not for one repulse forego the purpose that you resolved to effect.” --Shakespeare⁶

⁶ “Perseverance,” The New Dictionary of Thoughts, Standard Book Company:1957, page 477

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