PERSEVERING

FROM GARAGE BAND TO SUPERSTAR

ED U. GATOR GETS THROUGH THE STORM

MR. GEISEL & DR. SEUSS

LEVEL I
You've probably heard songs on the radio, or seen music videos on TV by Garth Brooks or Celine Dion. These artists are two of the best-selling, most popular musicians of all time! How do you think Garth Brooks and Celine Dion got to be so famous? Do you think it was easy? Not at all! It took lots and lots of hard work, a great deal of patience, and a strong belief in their own abilities. In other words, they had perseverance!

Today, Garth Brooks and Celine Dion sell out concerts all over the world, and sell millions of CDs. But it hasn't always been that way. Most famous singers spend years and years rehearsing in basements and garages until they're good enough to entertain an audience. Brooks probably wrote hundreds of songs before he had a hit on the radio. Dion probably sang in tiny clubs for a long time and had many voice lessons before she recorded her first record.

Do you know what it takes to wait that long for something big to happen? Perseverance! With perseverance, you can do ANYTHING you set your mind to do. But, like Brooks and Dion, you've got to be willing to wait. That's really hard to do sometimes. Who likes to wait for a movie to start or a meal to begin? Who likes to wait to open presents at a birthday party? Who likes to wait in line at the bank or at the grocery store? Nobody! But sometimes that's what you have to do, if you want something in a really big way!

So reach for the stars! But be prepared to build a ladder up to those stars, with hard work, motivation, patience and PERSEVERANCE!

**VOCABULARY:**

- **Motivation:** a strong desire to do something.
- **Prepare:** to make or get ready for something.
- **Rehearse:** to practice.
Hello, good friends, Ed here. Last weekend a terrible thing happened:

Saturday night we had the worst storm we’ve ever had in Gatorsville Park. The winds and rain were unbelievably strong! The noises outside my bedroom window were so loud, it woke me up at 4 o’clock in the morning. It turned out I wasn’t the only one awake. Mom and Dad, Gramps and El were roaming the upstairs hallway wondering what all the racket was! It was hard to see outside, but it looked like there were broken tree limbs and branches everywhere.

When daylight came the storm was over. We could see better, but what we saw was much worse than we thought! Our front yard was littered with stuff from other houses, and our mail box and garbage cans were all the way over in our neighbor’s yard. All the trees and bushes on the street were a major mess. Then suddenly I thought of something. My clubhouse! I ran out back in my pajamas and galoshes. Oh no! My clubhouse was in a million pieces, scattered all over the yard.

Later that morning, Gabe, Alice and Franklin came over to survey the damage. We all looked at each other in disbelief. What were we going to do? “Well,” said Gabe, “I guess we have to start again from scratch.” Boy, that clubhouse took a lot of hard work to build. I wasn’t sure I had the motivation to build it again.

“If we don’t have a clubhouse,” said Gabe, “we won’t have a place for our meetings. Why don’t we build it better and stronger than before?” That sounded like a great idea! First we had to clean up all the old wood from the yard. That took forever! But the thought of a brand new, improved, super-duper deluxe clubhouse gave us energy, strength and perseverance! It was a true team effort. Alice, Franklin, Gabe and I loaded all the junk in the back of Gabe’s Mom’s van. Then we dropped it off at the town dump.

Next, Gabe’s Mom drove us to the Gatorsville Hardware Store where we pitched in our allowances for supplies. Boy, that place was mobbed! It seemed like everyone in town was buying stuff to make repairs from the storm.

When we got back to my house, we discovered the ground was too wet from the rain to start building. We were all so disappointed. I couldn’t wait to get started! Alice said, “If we try to do it now, we might have to do it over again. Let’s wait until we can build it right.”

So we waited till Monday afternoon, but it was still too wet. Tuesday afternoon, Franklin and I tested the ground, but we decided it would be best to wait one more day. By Wednesday the ground was perfect. With tremendous perseverance, our team worked Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. By lunchtime our work was complete! We were all tired from the hard work, but when we stood next to our brand new clubhouse, we were extremely proud of our achievement. It was the best clubhouse ever!

But I realized something that day. If we hadn’t waited till the ground was dry, and if we didn’t believe that we could build it better and stronger, we never could have done such a fine job! Perseverance pays!

QUESTIONS
1) What kind of damage did the storm do in Ed’s neighborhood?
2) Why did Ed consider not building a new clubhouse?
3) What changed his mind?
4) How did Ed’s friends make a great team?
5) Why did Ed have to wait to start building the clubhouse? What might have happened if he had started when the ground was still wet?
6) How did Ed’s friends feel about their completed project?
7) Why did Ed say “Perseverance pays!”?

VOCABULARY:
Racket: noise.
Survey: to look over.
Mobbed: crowded.
HELP ED ACCOMPLISH HIS TASK

**Directions:** In the maze below, help Ed get to the finish line. Watch out for dead ends! It may take some perseverance to get there, but don't give up!

LOOKING FOR WORDS IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

**Directions:** There are a bunch of words hidden in the rows of letters below. Do you have the patience and motivation to find them all? Search carefully, because they go in all directions. See if you can find:

PERSEVERED ZIJ
WWUKLQXBAEMNC
EIOBAOUZKOOTSE
CDJRFFHRTET
OTYUKSCUSISH
YMZOMPSEIWBB
PATIENNACAH
UYQVAXCBZTLH
CCWNOEAEIQCA
JEHAFSBYWOVJ
SCHTSHSANANMH
BLHJCOMPLETEZ

PERSEVERE MOTIVATION WORK
PATIENCE SUCCESS COMPLETE
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: Go through the newspaper and see if you can find big letters from headlines that spell PERSEVERANCE. Cut them out and paste them in the space below.

BE PROUD TO PERSEVERE

Directions: Below is a certificate for a person who has displayed hard work, patience and perseverance. If you completed the activities on these two pages, then you deserve this award! Fill in your name, color it in if you want to, and hang it up on a bulletin board or on your refrigerator.
hen Anna stood next to Lacey for the first time, the chestnut brown horse looked as big as a mountain!

“I’ll never be able to ride her!” Anna thought to herself. But she had seen her brothers, Jake and Tommy, do it a hundred times. Sometimes she hated being the kid sister. She was always getting teased about her age and her height. And because Jake and Tommy had told her she was too small to ride that big horse, she wanted to do it that much more! She tried to put her foot in the stirrup, but she just couldn’t reach that high.

She was so frustrated, she kicked a rock across the yard. She looked up when she heard it hit something. A stool! “That’s what I’ll use!” she thought. So she dragged the stool over to the horse. She was amazed at how calm and patient Lacey was. Anna had always been a little afraid of her. She had come back to this spot behind the barn many times before, but she could never bring herself to ride Lacey.

Today she was finally ready! Anna stood on the stool and placed her foot in the stirrup. But when she reached up to grab the horn on the saddle she fell right off. “Ouch!” she cried, as she landed flat on her bottom. She quickly looked around to make sure her brothers weren’t watching and laughing from behind the barn. Luckily, she was all alone. She tried again. This time she almost made it, but she fell even harder.

She wondered deep down if this was really worth it. But when she thought how much fun her brother seemed to have racing Lacey across the fields, she knew she had to do it. With all her strength, she hoisted herself up and there she was! Sitting on top of Lacey, high above the world!

“Wow, that’s the easy part,” she said to herself. “Now I’ve got to stay on her!” She tapped the horse’s side with her right foot as she had seen her brothers do. Suddenly, Lacey took off running, and Anna almost fell off again, but she gripped the reins as tight as she could. She was frightened, but she was moving fast and still holding on! She was riding like the wind! It was the greatest feeling she had ever had! Anna was very proud of herself, for trying so hard to do something that nobody else thought she could do. As she rode across the field she couldn’t help thinking to herself, “Won’t Jake and Tommy be surprised!”
"I meant what I said, and I said what I meant! An elephant's faithful — one hundred percent!"

Those famous words were uttered by Horton the Elephant in Horton Hatches the Egg, one of the most beloved children's stories of all time. The story was written by Theodor Geisel, better known to his millions of fans as Dr. Seuss.

Horton was an extremely patient elephant who agreed to sit on an egg for a lazy bird named Mayzie. Horton shows great perseverance, as he loyally protects the egg through horrible weather and unbelievable circumstances. The same could be said for Dr. Seuss, who persevered for many years to have his first book published. It is said that somewhere between 27 and 43 publishers rejected his wonderful books! Fortunately for the world of children, Dr. Seuss believed in his writing ability, and never gave up trying to get someone interested in his unique work. His perseverance paid off in a big way! Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated 44 books in his lifetime. Together they have sold hundreds of millions of copies! His books have been made into cartoons, movies and CD-ROMs.

In 1984, he won a Pulitzer Prize Special Citation for his outstanding contribution to children’s books. In addition, he has received almost every major writing award, including the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, and has been honored by Caldecott three times.

Through Dr. Seuss's perseverance and his dedication to the craft of writing, The Cat in the Hat, Yertle the Turtle, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas and faithful old Horton have settled down comfortably into the libraries and hearts of children and families everywhere!

**VOCABULARY:**

- *Uttered:* spoken.
- *Faithful:* being loyal and trustworthy.
- *Circumstances:* the facts about an event.
- *Publish:* to produce and distribute written material so that people can buy it.
- *Reject:* to refuse something.
TIPS

1) Young kids are naturally impatient. It doesn’t help that we live in a lightning-paced world of computers, e-mail, faxes and other forms of technology that deliver products and information to us practically instantaneously. Look for opportunities to teach your child that some of the best things, and most lasting things in life, are worth the wait.

2) It’s hard to walk into a store with your child without hearing “I want this” or “I want that” or “Buy me something!” Sometimes it’s easier to give in, instead of causing an inevitable squabble or confrontation. But it will be a more important lesson for your child if he understands that there are special times for buying gifts, and that sometimes people go into stores “just to look around.” A brief conversation before entering the store may make the visit easier. Your child will probably appreciate the infrequent little gifts more if they’re not handed out on a daily basis.

3) Some kids have a great deal of determination and perseverance, and will try something again and again until they succeed. Others may give up in frustration after just one attempt. Help your child see the benefit in not giving up too quickly. It may take your assistance initially in completing the task, and withdrawing your support gradually as your child masters the situation.

4) When your child brings home a piece of art, or an example of her writing, take the time to admire and appreciate her handiwork. Simple drawings represent lots of time, energy and creativity. Imperfect letters and numbers are an essential part of the learning process, and each step is a monumental achievement for your child. She may work on writing her name, or drawing a figure for many months before she’s satisfied with her accomplishment. That’s perseverance! Display your child’s masterpieces proudly!

RESOURCES

Seuss, Dr. Oh, the Places You’ll Go! Random House, 1990.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Even at this young age, kids have favorite movie or television stars, favorite authors or singers, baseball players or ice-skaters. Like the page 2 story about Garth Brooks and Celine Dion, or the biography of Dr. Seuss, kids will learn a lot about perseverance if they know how hard the people they admire had to work. Pick one of your child’s favorite people and discuss what they might have done to achieve their level of fame or success. Libraries and bookstores are filled with biographies and autobiographies of famous individuals who have worked diligently and overcome amazing odds to succeed. These stories are very inspiring, and many of the personalities make great positive role models.

FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child’s name

Family members:

______________________    ___________________
______________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________
Teacher/grade: ___________________________

For more information about Project: Solution, call 736-8918 or 1-800-331-1227, ext. 8033 or 8918.