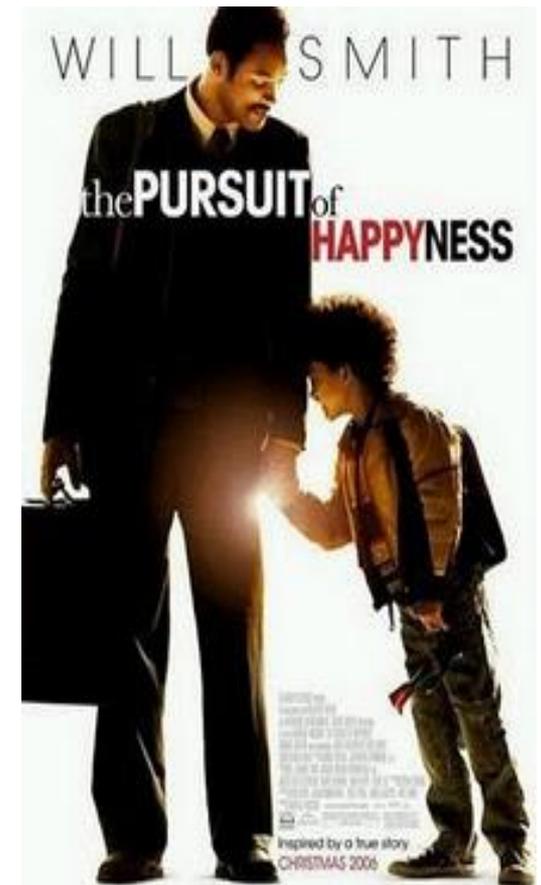


## TOPIC: Overcoming Obstacles

**TARGET:** I will use effective listening and speaking strategies to deliver main idea and details from media literacy. I will learn and apply new vocabulary to my every day conversations.

**DO NOW:  
ANSWER...**

**WHAT IS A BIOGRAPHY?  
IF YOU COULD WRITE A  
BIOGRAPHY, WHO WOULD  
IT BE ABOUT AND WHAT  
WOULD YOU SAY?**



### Essential Questions:

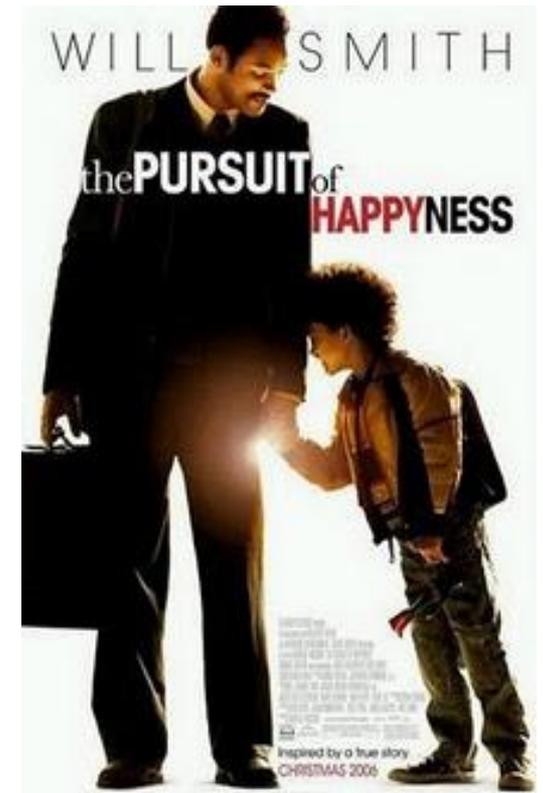
1. What is the “Pursuit of Happy-ness”?
2. What is determination?
3. What is work ethic?
4. What is the American Dream?

**THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS** is about an African-American man, abandoned by his father as an infant, vows that he will always be present in the life of his child. He got caught in a perfect storm of bad luck and became homeless. However, he managed to take care of his son while pursuing a highly competitive unpaid internship as a stockbroker.

He is now a wealthy stockbroker, as well as a proud father.

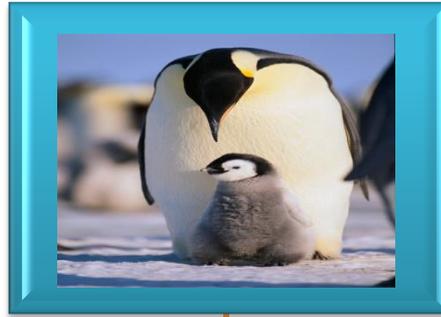
Despite all of the obstacles in his way, how did he do it?

How did Chris Gardner remain focused and determined to succeed?



### Essential Questions:

1. What is the “Pursuit of Happyness”?
2. What is determination?
3. What is work ethic?
4. What is the American Dream?



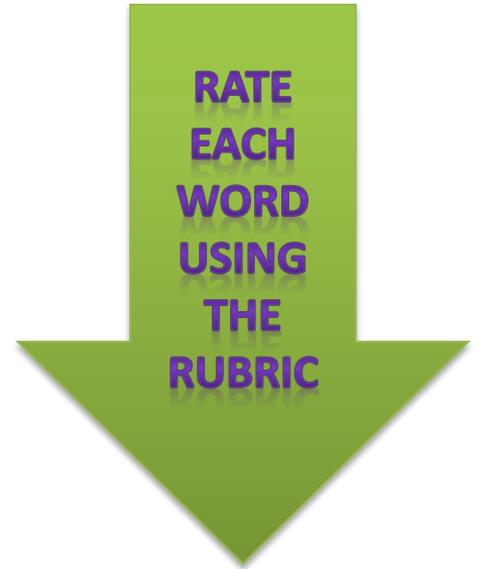
# VOCABULARY RUBRIC

4	3	2	1	0
<p>I really know and understand this word. I can use it in conversation. I can tell you its meaning. I can give you examples of this word in context.</p>	<p>I understand this word. Sometimes I can use it in my everyday conversations.</p>	<p>I have a basic understanding of this word but am unsure of some of its uses.</p>	<p>I think I've heard this word before. I'm not really sure; help me please.</p>	<p>I do not know this word. I've never heard it before.</p>

# NEW VOCABULARY

Use your vocabulary rubric to identify your current level of understanding for each word

- INTERNSHIP
- STOCKMARKET
- BROKER
- ESSAY
- PURSUIT
- TOW
- SHIFT
- LUXURY
- NICKNAME
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- EVICT
- STOCKS
- BONDS
- WARRANT
- BROKE
- BAIL



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# DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. How should people dress for a job interview? What are some good things to do and say at a job interview? What are some bad things to do and say at a job interview?





# DISCUSSION QUESTION

2. What is most important for you in a job: make good money, have good benefits, work close to home, have job security, do something you like, have a nice boss and co-workers, or other?



What the movie clip.



Be sure to complete the handout on Past Continuous and Simple Past Tense Verbs AND Take notes on the following:



WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES CHRIS GARDNER FACES IN THIS MOVIE SEGMENT?

HOW DOES HE OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES HE IS FACED WITH?

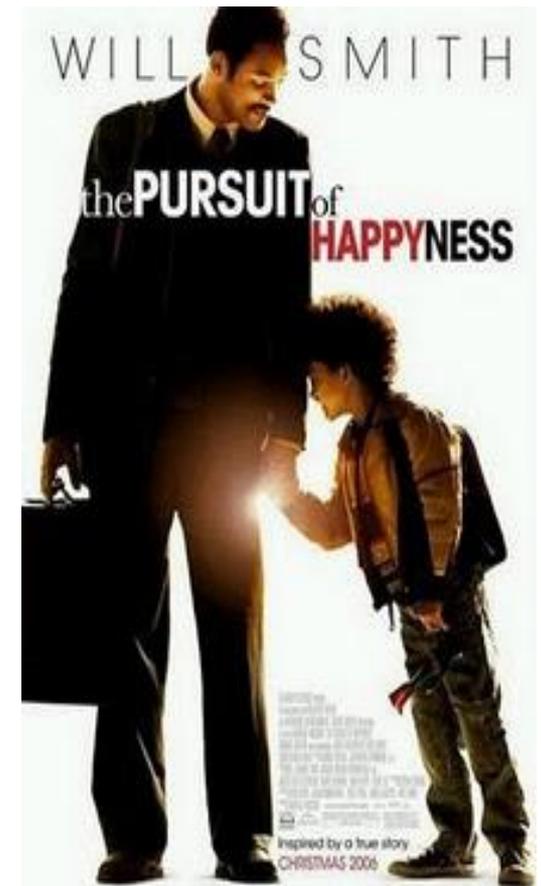
## TOPIC: Overcoming Obstacles

**TARGET:** I will learn new words associated with the biography and movie, “The Pursuit of Happiness”. I will identify characteristics of different relationships, what is surviving, work vs. career and ambition.

### DO NOW:

Take out your homework assignment. Be sure your name, class, period, and date are on it.

Read Chris Gardner’s biography. Use highlighters to highlight the most important information.



### Essential Questions:

1. What is the “Pursuit of Happy-ness”?
2. What is determination?
3. What is work ethic?
4. What is the American Dream?

# Biography Comprehension Questions

- Where does Chris Gardner work now? What is his title?
- Other than working at his own firm, what else does Chris Garner do?

# BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS GARDNER

Chris Gardner is the owner and CEO of Gardner Rich LLC with offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. Conquering grave challenges to become a successful **entrepreneur**, Gardner is an avid motivational and aspirational speaker, addressing the keys to overcoming obstacles and breaking cycles.

Gardner is also a passionate **philanthropist** whose work has been recognized by many esteemed organizations.



# Biography Comprehension Answers

- Where does Chris Gardner work now? What is his title?
  - *Chris Gardner is the owner and CEO of Gardner Rich LLC with offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.*
- Other than working at his own firm, what else does Chris Garner do?
  - *Chris Gardner is also an avid motivational and aspirational speaker. He shared the keys to overcoming obstacles and breaking cycles. Gardner is also a philanthropist whose work has been recognized by many organizations.*

# Biography Comprehension Questions

- Describe Chris Gardner's childhood.
- Why did Chris Gardner publish his autobiography?
- What is Gardner's mother's name and why does Gardner thank her for his success?

# BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS GARDNER

Born February 9, 1954 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Christopher Paul Gardner's childhood was marked by poverty, domestic violence, alcoholism, sexual abuse and family illiteracy. Gardner published his autobiography out of a desire to shed light on these universal issues and show they do not have to define you. Gardner never knew his father, and lived with his beloved mother, Bettye Jean Triplett (nee Gardner), when not in foster homes. Gardner is indebted to Bettye Jean for his success as she provided him with strong "spiritual genetics" and taught him that in spite of where he came from, he could chart another path and attain whatever goals he set for himself.

# Biography Comprehension Answers

- Describe Chris Gardner's childhood.
  - *Chris Gardner's childhood was marked by poverty, domestic violence, alcoholism, sexual abuse and family illiteracy.*
- Why did Chris Gardner publish his autobiography?
  - *Gardner published his autobiography out of a desire to shed light on universal issues that do not have to define who you are as a person.*
- What is Gardner's mother's name and why does Gardner thank her for his success?
  - *Gardner's mother's name was Bettye Jean Triplett. He attributes his success to her because she provided him with strong "spiritual genetics". She showed him how to walk another path in his life and how to never give up working on his dreams.*

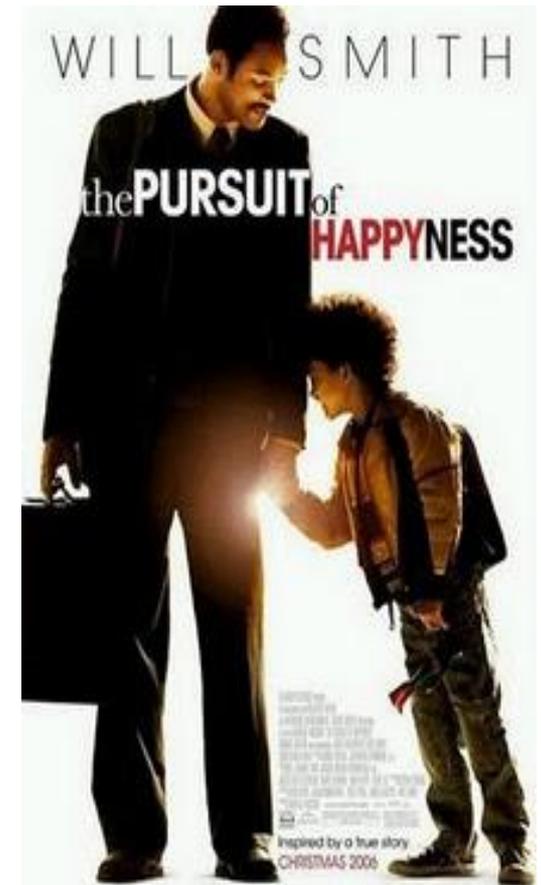
## TOPIC: Overcoming Obstacles

**TARGET:** I will learn new words associated with the biography and movie, “The Pursuit of Happiness”. I will identify characteristics of different relationships, what is surviving, work vs. career and ambition.

### DO NOW:

Take out Chris Gardner’s Biography.

Answer the following questions using his biography. Please write in complete sentences.



### Essential Questions:

1. What is the “Pursuit of Happy-ness”?
2. What is determination?
3. What is work ethic?
4. What is the American Dream?

# Biography Comprehension Questions

- What is the name of the company that gave Chris Gardner an opportunity to train with them?
- What percentage of homeless people in the United States are employed?
- Who does Gardner provide assistance to and why?

# BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS GARDNER

Gardner earned a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program but became homeless when he could not make ends meet on his meager trainee salary. Today, Gardner is involved with homelessness initiatives assisting families to stay intact, and assisting homeless men and women who are employed but still cannot get by. It is estimated that 12% of the homeless population in the United States is employed; in some communities that estimate is as high as 30%.



# Biography Comprehension Answers

- What is the name of the company that gave Chris Gardner an opportunity to train with them?
  - *Chris Gardner was offered a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program.*
- What percentage of homeless people in the United States are employed?
  - *It is estimated that 12% to 30% of the homeless population in the United States is employed.*
- Who does Gardner provide assistance to and why?
  - *Today, Gardner is involved with homelessness initiatives assisting families to stay intact, and assisting homeless men and women who are employed but still cannot get by.*

DO YOU OPEN YOUR DOOR TO SALESPEOPLE WHO COME TO YOUR HOME TO SELL MERCHANDISE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

HAVE YOU (OR ANYONE YOU KNOW) EVER SOLD MERCHANDISE IN A STORE, BY PHONE, DOOR-TO-DOOR, OR BY OTHER METHODS?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A SALESPERSON? WHY OR WHY NOT? IF SO, OF WHAT PRODUCT?



New word rubric

# New Vocabulary



INTERNSHIP



Training time for a person new to an occupation to gain practical experience

STOCK MARKET



Organization in which agents buy and sell shares of a company

BROKER



Someone who buys and sells stocks, shares, and other securities for clients on a commission basis

ESSAY



A long composition of approximately 5-8 (or more) paragraphs written on a specific topic or theme.

4	3	2	1	0
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New  
word  
rubric

# New Vocabulary



## STOCKS



An estimation or evaluation of something; money or capital invested; the ownership element in a corporation usually divided into shares and represented by transferable certificates

## BONDS



A bond is a debt security, similar to an I.O.U. When you purchase a bond, you are lending money to a government, municipality, corporation, federal agency or other entity known as an *issuer*. In return for that money, the issuer provides you with a bond in which it promises to pay a specified rate of *interest* during the life of the bond and to repay the *face* value of the bond (the *principal*) when it matures, or comes due.

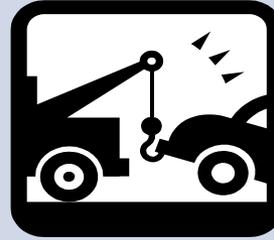
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New  
word  
rubric

# New Vocabulary

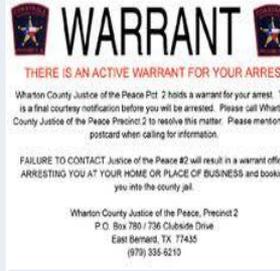


TOW



Pull something with a rope or chain attached to it

WARRANT



A document that gives police particular rights or powers; for example, the right to search or arrest somebody

BROKE



Having no money

BAIL



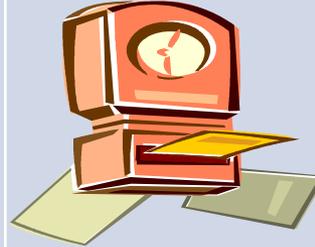
Money deposited to release an accused person from police custody and to guarantee that person's appearance in court at a later date

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New word rubric

# New Vocabulary

SHIFT



Fixed working times at workplaces



LUXURY



Something that is desirable but not essential, and often expensive or hard to get

NICKNAME



An invented or shortened name or somebody or something

EVICT



Force a tenant to leave a property, usually because he or she has broken the terms of the lease

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# New Vocabulary



## HUMAN RESOURCES

A department of a business concerned with recruiting and managing employees



## PURSUIT

An effort made to try to achieve or obtain something over a period of time



4	3	2	1	0
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# Biography Comprehension Questions

- Name the groups, foundations, committees and awards he is involved in and with.

# BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS GARDNER

Dedicated to improving the well-being of children through positive paternal involvement, Gardner is a board member of the National Fatherhood Initiative, and received the group's Father of the Year Award in 2002. He served on the board of the National Education Foundation and sponsors two annual awards: the National Education Association's National Educational Support Personnel Award and the American Federation of Teachers' Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) Award. He also serves on the board of the International Rescue Committee, which works to provide access to safety, sanctuary, and sustainable change for millions of people whose lives have been shattered by violence and oppression.

<http://www.chrisgardnermedia.com/about/bio>

# Biography Comprehension Questions

- What church helped Gardner and his son when they needed it most?
- Where is the church located?
- Is Gardner still committed to the church?
- When did Gardner and Christopher receive assistance from the church named above?
- What is Chris Gardner's aim?

# BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS GARDNER

Gardner is still very committed to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, where he and his son received assistance in the early 1980's. He has helped fund a project that creates low-income housing and opportunities for employment in the notoriously poor Tenderloin area of the city.

Chris Gardner's aim, through his speaking engagements and media projects, is to help others achieve their full potential.