

The Pursuit of Happiness

a story about a small pup with big dreams



Chester the pup goes after his dreams...

...and fulfills his destiny despite the doubters

The Pursuit of Happiness

short story

Chester was a tiny little Chihuahua. He was excited to start pup school, but he was also nervous because he had no idea what trade he wanted to pursue.

After months of waiting, he finally realized he wanted to be a guard dog.

Chester's mom had given him all of the time in the world to choose what trade he wanted to learn. But her patience was wearing thin.

"Chester, have you decided what you want to do with your life? All of your brothers and sisters have already gone off to pup school and graduated. Why are you taking so long to blossom?" asked his mother.

"Mom, I want to be a guard dog," Chester blurted out.

"Honey, you're so small. You can't be a guard dog; you'll get eaten alive." remarked Chester's mother.

This lit a fire under Chester. He was determined to pursue his road to happiness, no matter how long and hard the journey may be. *"Mom, I've made up my mind. I am going to be a guard dog,"* said Chester before he skipped away.

The very next morning, he enrolled in pup school as a guard dog. His classmates were German Shepherds, Pit Bulls and only the toughest dogs. But Chester felt confident in his ability to succeed.

When he got home from school, Chester would exercise to build up his strength. It was tough, but he stuck to his guns. He knew he could do it.

At his final examination, he had to run an obstacle course in under 45 seconds. And, because of his hard work and small size, he was able to complete the obstacle course in 20 seconds!

Against all odds, Chester became a guard dog.



MORAL: Chase your dreams, regardless of how unlikely success may seem.

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personal reflection

Initially, Chester's fear of failure kept him from pursuing his dream of being a guard dog. And, when he finally worked up the courage to follow his passion, he was criticized. Nonetheless, Chester stuck to his guns and achieved exactly what he set out to do.

He pursued his happiness and won.

Surely, you've encountered a situation where your lack of confidence has stopped you from chasing something you know you would love to do. ***However, if you don't even try, you've already lost the battle.***

Maybe you couldn't give that executive your elevator pitch because you thought he wouldn't spare a second to talk to you. Or

you may have even opted for a "safe" college major rather than what you truly love to do.

It's important to remember that ***every day is an opportunity to succeed.*** And pursuing your happiness can effectively be done just one step at a time.

If you want to be a doctor someday, the first step is showing up to class. If you want to work as a bridal consultant, the first step is handing out resumes. And if you want to start a family, the first step is trying to conceive with your spouse.

Once you take the first step, the ones that follow seem to fall into place!

Self-Reflection Questions:

1. Do I have the confidence to chase my dreams?
2. Have I sat down to truly define what my dreams are?
3. What is my day-by-day game plan in order to ensure my success?