

TAYLOR SWIFT

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- bullied in middle school because of her curly hair
- treated like an outcast by her peers because she wanted to be a country singer in middle school
- first demo-record was rejected
- Kanye West publically stated she was undeserving at the VMA in 2009

Accomplishment/Success

- pop and country singer/songwriter

LIONEL MESSI

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- diagnosed with a growth hormone deficiency at age 11
- stunted growth as a teenager
- expensive medical treatment
- injections of Human Growth Hormone into his leg nightly for three years

Accomplishment/Success

- one of the greatest soccer players of the modern generation

OPRAH WINFREY

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- born poor and out of wedlock
- raped at age 9 and sexually harassed by family members from for the next four year
- as a teenager she turned to a life of rebellion and drugs
- fired from her job as a reporter because she was "unfit for TV"

Accomplishment/Success

- American entrepreneur and philanthropist known for her multi award winning show 'The Oprah Winfrey Show' (1986-2011). She is the twentieth century's richest African American with a net worth of 2.7 billion dollars

THOMAS ALVA EDISON

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- no formal education, no certificate
- no good hearing, partial deafness
- many fruitless experiments, a thousand failed attempts and his film plant went up in flames
- embarrassed and ridiculed by his teacher for his broad forehead and his head which was considered larger than average
- lost his wife

Accomplishment/Success

- an American inventor and businessman, developed the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and the electric light bulb

MICHAEL JORDAN

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- At age 16 he was not chosen for his High School basketball team
- is very judgmental and hard on himself
- reserved with people and may find it difficult to express himself
- afraid of confrontations and probably will avoid group activities as much as possible

Accomplishment/Success

- Michael Jordan won six NBA titles with Chicago in addition to five regular-season MVP and six Finals MVP awards

EMINEM

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- as a child he was known as "a bit of a loner" who often was bullied
- high school dropout
- struggles with drugs and poverty
- unsuccessful suicide attempt
- entered rehab for sleeping pill addiction in 2005

Accomplishment/Success

- an American rapper, record producer, songwriter, and actor

BARACK OBAMA

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- At the age of two, Obama's father left the family
- during his teen years his relationship with his white grandfather was difficult
- he dabbled in drugs and alcohol
- lost congressional election in 2000 by a 30% margin

Accomplishment/Success

- first African American President of the United States

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- Failed in business three times
- Sweetheart died
- had a nervous breakdown
- defeated seven times in campaigns

Accomplishment/Success

- American President of the United States that abolished slavery

WALT DISNEY

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- In 1921 he was forced to dissolve his company
- at one point he could not pay his rent and was surviving by eating dog food
- Fired from a newspaper for "lacking imagination" and "having no original ideas"
- suffered through many fits of anger and depression

Accomplishment/Success

- co-founded Walt Disney Productions, innovative animator and created the cartoon character Mickey Mouse

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- did not speak until the age of 4
- expelled from school
- teacher described him as “mentally slow”
- difficulty with memorization and one teacher said he “would never be able to do anything that would make any sense in life”

Accomplishment/Success

- German-born physicist with worldwide fame for his general theory of relativity and a Nobel Prize in 1921 for his explanation of the phenomenon known as the photoelectric effect

STEVE JOBS

Challenges/Obstacles/Failures

- unwanted by his biological parents
- given up for adoption
- university drop out
- financially unstable as a young adult
- fired from his own company

Accomplishment/Success

- co-founder of Apple Computers