

Chapter 2

Believe

*“When you believe in a thing, believe in it all the way,
implicitly and unquestionable.”*

Walt Disney

Walt Disney was born in 1901 and died in 1966—one year before construction began on Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. His brother Roy Disney inaugurated the Magic Kingdom on October 1, 1971. Disney had a very early interest in art; and as a child, his neighbor paid him to draw pictures of his horse Rupert. Drawing Rupert the horse was a significant event because that childhood experience gave him the idea to draw animals; and we all know about his most famous animation. Disney said, "He popped out of my mind onto a drawing pad 20 years ago on a train ride from Manhattan to Hollywood at a time when business fortunes of my brother Roy and myself were at a lowest ebb and disaster seemed right around the corner."¹

From that drawing pad, Mickey Mouse was born! Well, almost. Mickey was originally "Mortimer Mouse" until Lillian Disney, Disney's wife, convinced him to change the name. His first role as Mickey was in *Steamboat Willie*, an animated short film.²

Steamboat Willie, who made its debut in 1928, was notable for being one of the first cartoons with synchronized sound. The sound in earlier short films was not perfected because the sound did not always match the motion. *Steamboat Willie* was produced using a new technique called click track where marks were made on the film to indicate precise timings for musical accompaniment. For the first time, sound effects were on target, and *Steamboat Willie* was an instance success. Everyone fell in love with Mickey Mouse.

A simple drawing led to a multi-billion dollar business all because Disney believed that a mouse could change the entertainment industry. He had a vision and Mickey Mouse was a means to an end; the improved sound effects also added to Mickey Mouse's success.

Disney made the most of something he enjoyed doing—drawing. A childhood hobby became an empire simply because Walt believed in his dream. He believed that an animated mouse could be his ticket to success. And was it ever! The Walt Disney Company now has annual revenues of approximately \$35 to \$45 billion.

Drawing was Disney's passion. What is your passion? How do you enjoy spending your time? Considering the fact that you will work about 80,000 hours over your lifetime, why not work at something you enjoy. There are tens of thousands of different jobs. Make it a point as a teenager to find a part-time job doing something that interests you.

Ok, so maybe flipping burgers is not that enjoyable. What you may not realize is that a lot of successful people, who own restaurant franchises, making big bucks, actually started out flipping burgers part-time as a teenager. Don't ever think your menial job is a dead-end street. If you're with a good company, especially one that is growing, the opportunities are endless. Whatever your job is, learn all you can about it, and make the most of it. Believe that your current job is a stepping stone to a higher paying job. You never know where it may lead.

Disney is proof that hobbies, interests, and talents can become careers. Sure, he probably had some natural talent, but many hobbies can be learned if you have the interest. It is important to be good at what you do, and oftentimes, that takes practice. But if you want to be successful,

¹ "Walt Disney Quotes" http://www.justdisney.com/walt_disney/quotes/quotes01.html

² "Hey Kids, Meet Walt Disney (Biography)" <http://makingartfun.com/htm/f-maf-art-library/walt-disney-biography.htm>

the time spent honing your skills will pay off in the future. Besides, having hobbies keeps you out of trouble, right? Who knows, you may be the next Walt Disney!

Disney knew he was a good artist; he believed in himself. He said, “When you believe in a thing, believe in it all the way, implicitly and unquestionable.” In other words, without a shred of doubt, believe in yourself and in your ability to do well. Believing in something implicitly means believing in it totally without reservation. That means to put forth your total effort. Looking at this statement from another angle is doing things half-heartedly or half way will *not* yield good results. A job well done requires total effort and hard work. Truly believe that your tasks are worthwhile because in doing so, you will find fulfillment. We are meant to have a satisfying and happy life.

Try believing in something with all your heart and see how things will fall into place. Disneyland, Disney World, and Disney movies and all that go along with them didn’t just happen! Disney said he went through four steps: First, think; second, believe; third, dream; and finally, dare! Probably the most important step is to believe. If you fall short on the belief level, then it will never happen because confidence is essential. You can have all the dreams in the world but unless you believe you can accomplish them and then dare to do something about them, they are just dreams drifting through your mind. Follow these four steps and there’s nothing you can’t do. To repeat, think, believe, dream, and dare.

We were all born with creative abilities, gifts, and talents. Make a list of those things you believe about yourself. List all of them whether they are large or small. I’ll bet you will discover that you are more talented than you thought.

And this brings us to jealousy. Never be jealous that someone is smarter or better looking than you or who has a talent you wished you had. Chances are you have an ability, gift, or talent that others wish *they* had. A line in a poem called “Desiderata” by Max Ehrman goes like this, “If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.” Good words to live by.

Believing in yourself means that you have confidence in who you are. Successful people never doubt themselves or their ability to do well. Believe you can have success, and you will! You may wonder about how difficult the journey to success may be. Don’t worry, just remember that, “If there’s a will, there’s a way!”

And when you start making big bucks, never lose sight of where you started. Even with his mass fortune, Walt Disney always remembered his humble beginnings because he often said, “I only hope that we don’t lose sight of one thing—that it was all started by a mouse.”

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Book is available on Amazon and at major bookstores

Customer Review: Linda Carter's book is about what it takes to be successful in today's world. She lists 26 character traits that are organized alphabetically. I found this book was good advice for any age, but especially teenagers trying to make their way in the world.

What is intriguing about this book is that you will find out little known facts about famous people that you might not have known before. That makes the book very entertaining and it teaches you life lessons that are the result of experience. Each chapter is about a successful person and some things are lol funny.