

Creative People Aren't Afraid to Fail



The essential part of creativity is not being afraid to fail.”

Edwin Land, scientist



Humor is the great thing, the saving thing after all. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations, and resentments flit away, and a sunny spirit takes their place.”

Mark Twain

Creative people aren't afraid to fail. Why? Because creative people learn to accept failure as an inevitable part of the process. The great jazz musician, Herbie Hancock fondly recalled one such instance. During a 1960s concert, Hancock played what he judged as a very pronounced wrong chord. He flinched, fearing that he had ruined the whole night. A gifted improviser, Miles Davis responded with a series of notes that made Hancock's chord sound intentional. And the band played on.

One trait of truly creative people is resilience. When they fail, they adapt and try again. What happens when a chef discovers that all of their French bread has gone stale? *The end of the world!* The menu is ruined! No, they create bread pudding.

Thomas Edison was told by a teacher that he was 'too stupid to learn anything'. And for a while, Edison might have wondered if his teacher was right. Thomas Edison made one THOUSAND *unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb*. Can you imagine how he must have felt? Amazingly, Edison kept trying and for all of those unsuccessful attempts, he went on to hold more than 1,000 patents, including the phonograph and electric lamp.

Ever heard of Jerry Seinfeld? He's one of the most successful comedians of all time. But his first time on stage he saw the audience and froze. Then, he delivered his set and was booed off the stage. He had two choices: pack it up and accept that comedy wasn't really "his thing" or return to the same stage the next night and try again. He edited and tightened his material and chose to try again.

J.K. Rowling was financially broke, on welfare, struggling with depression, recently divorced and a single mother writing a novel while studying. Have you ever heard the saying, "persistence pays off"? From woe to wizard, her bestselling books about Harry Potter have been read around the world.

Humorist and cartoonist James Thurber once said, “It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.” Creativity can help us in all areas of our life, from problem solving the steps in a homework assignment, to brightening our spirit, and even shedding light on difficult issues. But we have to be willing to stay humble, stay curious and maybe even look a little bit foolish in the eyes of the world.

Parts of the text are based on the article: 15 Highly Successful People Who Failed Before Succeeding.
<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/15-highly-successful-people-who-failed-their-way-success.html>