

My Dreams

Student Journal

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My Dreams

Student Journal

MYCHAL WYNN



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Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to those who have embraced my book, *Follow Your Dreams: Lessons That I Learned in School*, and who have demonstrated the courage to look beyond a student's issues, obstacles, challenges, and circumstances to affirm and support all students in the pursuit of their college or career aspirations.

A special thank you to my editor, Dr. Glenn Bascome, an English teacher who continues to make himself available to review my many manuscripts; Kimberly Carreker, a middle school teacher who stole precious moments from her busy schedule to ensure that the activities lift students beyond where they are to where they dream of going; Shannon Holland, for her honesty and constructive criticism; Ken Banks, Sylvia Cabrera, Mickey Cureton, Dr. Marianne Dancy, Burman Deshautelle, Jacqueline Fisher, Bruce Kundin, Mark McKinney, Dr. Denise Miranda, Arlene Rosen, Margaret Taylor, Connie Turner, and Marsha Watkins for their ideas and insight; teachers and counselors of the Los Angeles County Office of Education for the work they do with students whom others have oftentimes deserted; staff of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, who are working to move students beyond the confines of their communities to the potential of their spirit; and my wife, Nina, who has been unwavering in her belief that all students can be nurtured and guided toward pursuing their passions and fulfilling their college and career aspirations.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the young people who have dared to dream and have the courage to pursue their dreams. Many such young people struggle against difficult circumstances, obstacles beyond their control, and challenges that would prove daunting for young people from the most stable and supportive environments. It is my hope that this book provides a source of encouragement and that the writings and illustrations used to fill its pages serve as a continuing source of inspiration to the young person with the courage to pursue his or her dreams and the teachers and counselors who encourage and inspire those dreams.

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From the Author



The book, “Follow Your Dreams: Lessons That I Learned in School,” shares my story—the choices I made that enabled me to exceed the expectations of both teachers in my school and people in my community. While I encountered many obstacles along the way, I was able to turn my early passions (writing and talking) into a broad range of careers (teaching, consulting, writing, publishing, speaking). Doing so has given my life purpose through my work with parents, teachers, and students. Through the college education that I acquired along the way, books that I have written, and the publishing company that my wife and I founded, I have experienced the unimaginable opportunity to work with and learn from thousands of parents, students, and teachers throughout the United States, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean, and Africa.

The “My Dreams: Student Journal” provides you, the student, with the opportunity to write your story as you examine issues raised in the book, “Follow Your Dreams: Lessons That I Learned in School” and issues in your life. Everyone has a story and each day is an opportunity to determine the direction of that story. I have worked with students in churches, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, the Jobs Corps, foster homes, and juvenile halls and camps. However, whatever the circumstances or obstacles, or the challenges and confrontations, the choices we make and consequences of our actions will determine our story.

Most of the activities that follow require 3 simple steps: Reflect, Discuss, and Create. How carefully and thoughtfully you engage in the activities will be entirely up to you. You can casually reflect, insincerely discuss, and haphazardly complete the activities. Or, you can engage in thoughtful and deliberate self-reflection, sincerely discuss your hopes and aspirations with teachers and peers, and creatively complete the activities so that your story is a story worth reading and your dreams are dreams worth pursuing.

Mychal Wynn

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Dare

Dare to be different
when all around you seek conformity.

Dare to encounter obstacles
when all around you avoid conflict.

Dare to seek possibilities
when all around you see only the impossible.

Dare to seek new and greater challenges
when all around you are procrastinating.

Dare to remain strong
when all around you are weakening.

Dare to continue
when all around you are quitting.

Dare to have faith
when all around you are doubting.

Dare to dream
even if no one dreams with you.

~ Mychal Wynn

What I Dare To Do



“I am sharing my story because I want to inspire you to discover your dreams; work toward your dreams; set goals to guide your efforts toward achieving your dreams; and, I want you to live your dreams so you, too, may live a rich life.”

— Introduction, p. xii

Before you begin working on your journal, review the poem, “Dare” on the opposite page. Consider each stanza of the poem within the context of your life. Are there obstacles that you must dare to overcome? Are there circumstances that you must dare to deal with? Are there challenges that you must dare to find solutions to?

No matter who you are or where you live, you will encounter challenges and obstacles. How you choose to deal with these challenges and obstacles will define your story.

Reflect (quick notes):

What are some of the issues and obstacles that you are challenged with?

Discuss (share with a partner):

Share your reflections with a partner and discuss how a person might deal with some of the issues and obstacles that you and your partner have identified.

Create:

On the following page, note some of the things that you will dare to do in response to the issues and obstacles that you are challenged with.

What I Dare to Dream



Having identified what you dare to do, what do you dare to dream? Do you have a dream house, dream car, dream place to live, dream family, dream career, dream level of education, dream community, or dream pursuit? Creating a “What I Dare to Dream” poster board provides an opportunity to creatively affirm, through a collage of images, photographs, original drawings, words, or clip art, the future you aspire toward.

Daring to do something will mean that you are daring to pursue something. For example, if you dare to go to college then you are daring to pursue a college degree. Acquiring a college degree will lead to a variety of career options. The career that you ultimately enter will allow you to earn a certain salary. The salary that you earn will allow you to purchase a certain type of car or home. The home that you purchase will be located in a certain type of community. If you have a family, your children will have the option to attend the type of schools that are located in the community where you purchased your home. Many of the options and opportunities that you have in the future will be related to the type of things that you dare to do.

Identify words and images that reflect your dreams and create a “*What I Dare to Dream*” poster board.

Instructions:

1. Take a poster board and write or illustrate “What I Dare to Dream” across the top.
2. Gather words and images from magazines and newspapers, which portray the types of things that you dream of, e.g., houses, cars, community, a family, education, careers, changes in the world, etc.
3. Use these words, images, original drawings, etc., to create your “What I Dare to Dream” poster board.
4. Your completed poster board will now serve as a continuing point of reflection as you read the *Follow Your Dreams* book and complete your *My Dreams: Student Journal*.

WHAT I DARE TO DREAM



Making changes in my community



Becoming the first in my family to graduate from college



Making it to the big leagues



Becoming an Actress



Building custom motorcycles



Becoming an artist



Racing in the Olympics



Achieving World Peace



Owning my own business

Where My Story Began



“Where you come from does not determine where you are going, only where you began.”

— Chapter 1, p. 7

In the first chapter, I describe my birthplace, my family background, and the conditions in the country at the time of my birth. I also describe some of the circumstances beyond my control, like being born into poverty and being given up for adoption.

Reflect (quick notes):

Describe where you live (such as your community, apartment, house, etc.).

Describe the people with whom you live (such as parents, grandparents, foster parents, brothers, sisters, etc.).

Discuss (share with a partner):

Share your reflections with a partner and identify things you have in common.

Create:

Use the following pages to expand your quick reflections. You may write about your family, use poetry or raps to describe your community, or use drawings or pictures to illustrate your family and friends.