

Overcoming Disabilities

Month: Apr.

Week #: 30

Day: c. Wed. Time: 30 minutes

Challenges Are Gifts

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: learn that by viewing disabilities as a gift and a challenge, it can alter their attitude so that they can do something positive and constructive with their life.

Materials

pictures of famous people with disabilities

Illustration

I'm not sure that he got a D- in science, but he struggled in school, and yet he went on to be considered one of the most brilliant scientist of our time!

Background

When faced with a disability it is easy to become despondent and to despair. In short, the person feels sorry for him or herself. Such an attitude can ultimately destroy the person and render his or her life as meaningless. If a person instead sees a disability as both a gift and a challenge, it can provide the impetus for the person to create a meaningful life and become a contributor to society.



Group Activity

1. Say, "Yesterday we learned how to treat people with disabilities in a kind and respectful manner. Today we're going to learn how to overcome disabilities and that it is not always the easiest thing to do. People with disabilities can easily feel sad and discouraged. They can feel sorry for themselves and give up on themselves and life. And yet, there are all sorts of people with disabilities who are happy and have done great things with their lives. I'm going to tell you some details from this person's life. Raise your hand if you think you know who he or she is." After the students guess who the person is, show a picture of the person (found under 'Computer Generated').

This person...

- had polio and was confined to a wheelchair, yet he became president of the United States.

A: Franklin Roosevelt

- had a learning disability and did not learn to talk until he was three. In high school he often received poor grades. As an adult, he would often become disoriented and could not find his way home. He became a brilliant physicist that formulated the 'Theory of Relativity.'

A: Albert Einstein

- had a bipolar disorder all his life and became deaf as an adult. He went on to become one of most famous composers in history, writing beautiful symphonies like the "Fifth Symphony."

A: Ludwig van Beethoven

Group Activity (continued)

- was a famous African American actor, is well know for his rich, and beautiful voice. He is also a stutterer.

A: James Earl Jones

- helped bring Mickey Mouse to life, also helped create classic movies such as 'Snow White' and 'Mary Poppins' and founded Disney Land, was dyslexic.

A: Walt Disney

- became the first person to win the Miss America competition even though she was deaf. She is also an accomplished ballet dancer.

A: Heather Whitestone McCallum

Group Discussion Questions

1. All of these people had major disabilities and yet they all did amazing things. How is this possible?

A: Answers will vary.

2. What do you think Oprah Winfrey meant when she said, "Challenges are gifts that force us to find a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand"? (If you need to, substitute the word 'disabilities' for the word 'challenges.')

A: Disabilities are challenges that force us into a new life view, a new way of being in the world. If we accept these disabilities as a gift instead of a curse, we can create a world where we are happy and can do constructive things.

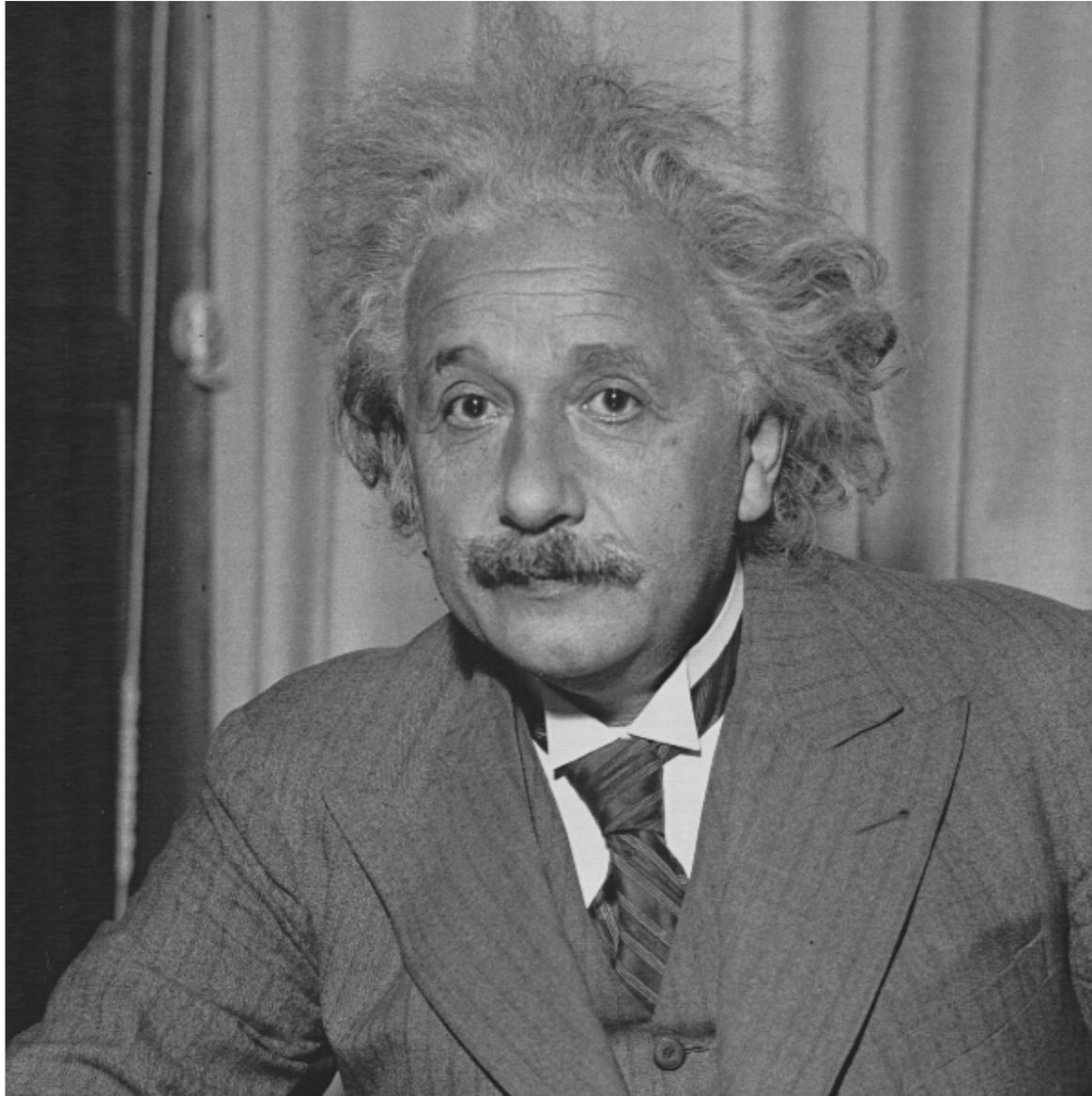
Conclusion

Say, "Disabilities are not the end of the world, they just change how we fit into it. Viewed as a challenge and as a gift, a disability can make us stronger. Even with a disability, we are still capable. Even with a disability, we are still lovable."

Challenges Are Gifts



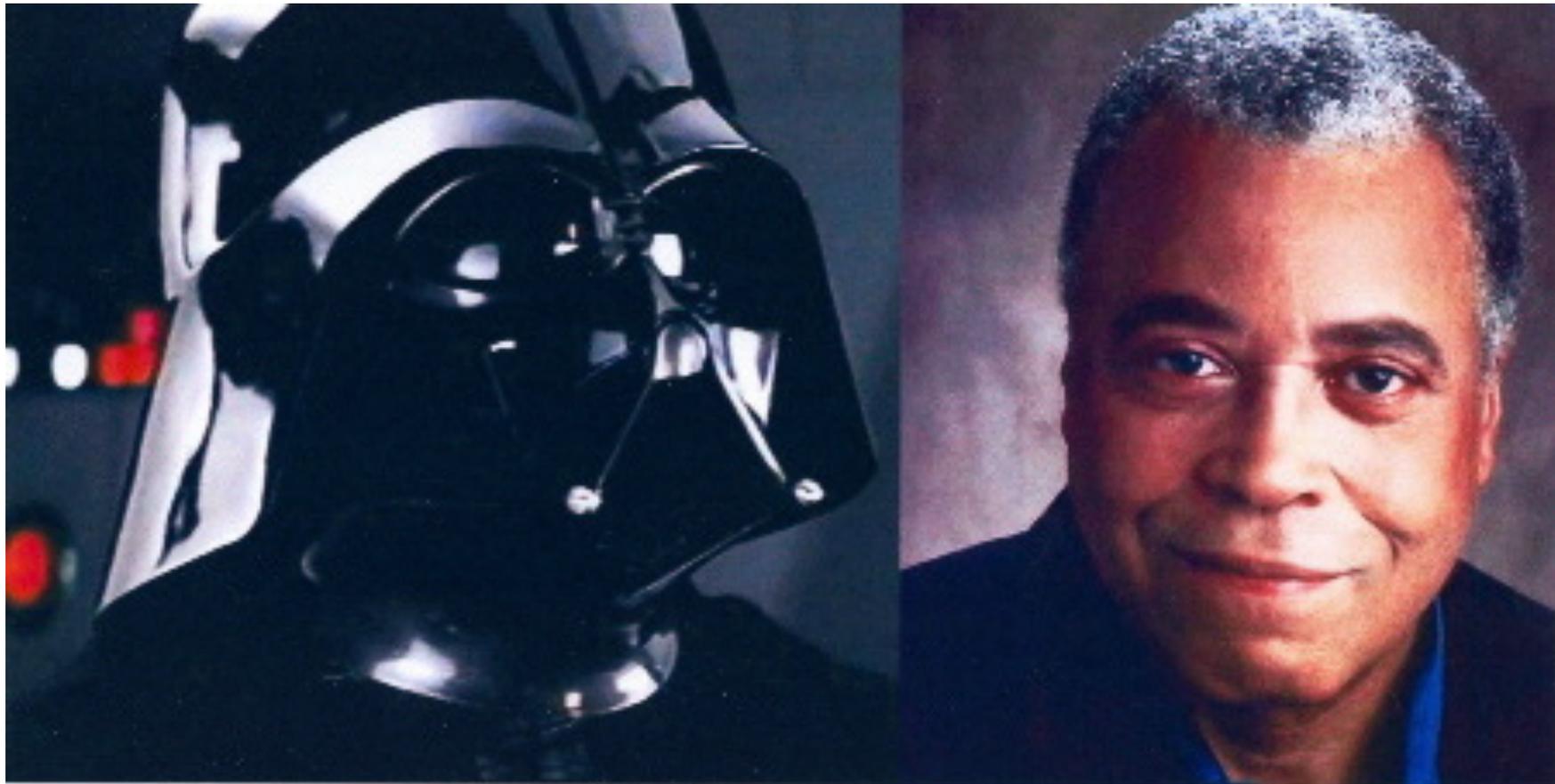
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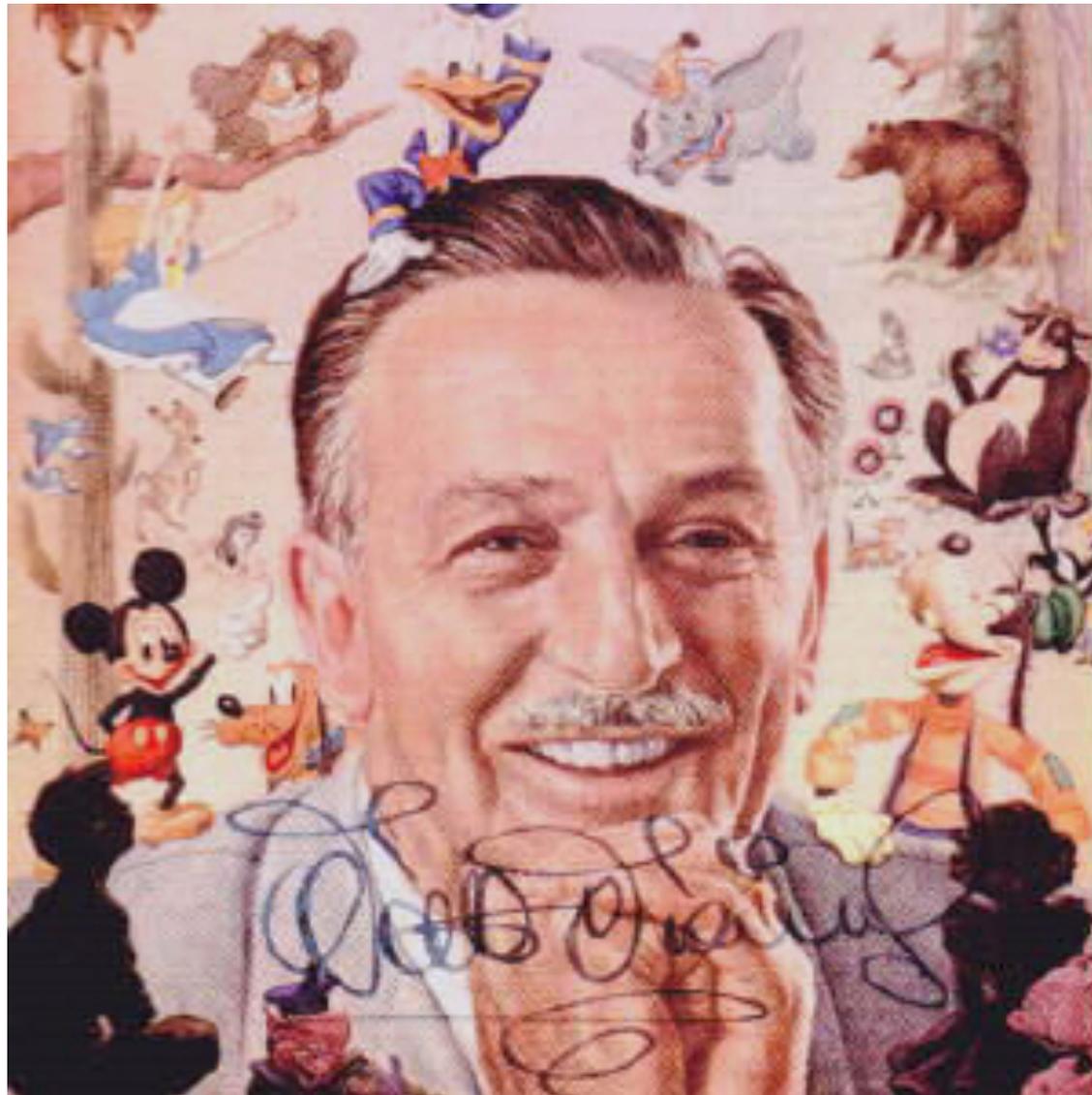


Ludwig van Beethoven had a bipolar disorder all his life and became deaf as an adult. He went on to become one of most famous composers in history writing beautiful symphonies, like the “Fifth Symphony”.



to Mike
Best Regards!
Star Collector
James Earl Jones

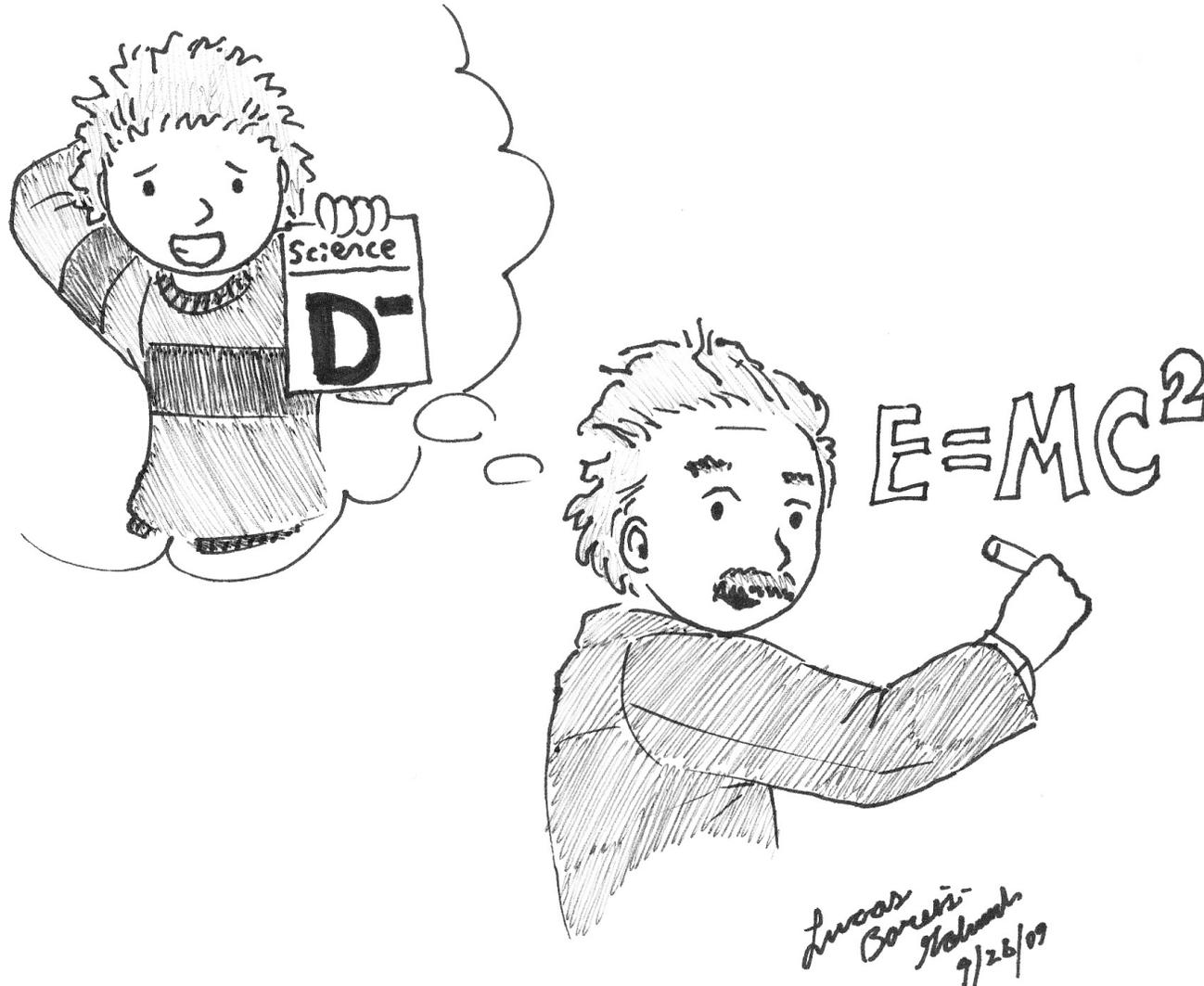
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