Fundamental Question:
Could the person getting in the way of your goals be you?

Students will investigate the idea that it is important to keep a positive attitude (stay motivated) about reaching goals, not to give up too easily, and to resist those who might prevent them from reaching their goals.

Objectives
Each student will:
1. Find examples of and report about people in history who “never gave up”;
2. Identify one or more examples of perseverance from his or her own life;
3. Relate examples of people who or events that supported this perseverance;
4. Evaluate how his or her perseverance affected the attainment of a goal; and
5. Participate in a class-wide perseverance-based social-action project.

Before you begin
• Secure the approval of the school administrator to guide your class through a one-time adopt a highway/road clean-up project … rain or shine, hot or cold; and
• Print out a copy of Plan on It for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Perseverance (Discussion Idea)
Discuss one or more of the following: a time when you worked extra hard to accomplish a goal; a time when you felt like giving up on a task; something that almost always motivates you to keep going; people or events that help you persevere; and/or how you feel when you accomplished a difficult task.

Taking It to the Next Level
Identify and interview someone who “never gave up.” If it is possible to interview this person in real life (face-to-face, by phone, email, or snail-mail) do so. If this is not possible, do some research to find out as much as you can about the individual and write up a report in the form of an interview. Share your findings with your class.
Procedure

1. Tell the class that they will serve as teachers for short lessons about perseverance. Briefly describe lesson planning. Distribute copies of Plan on It to the students.

2. Divide the class into three groups. Distribute one or more copies of The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton to the first group, Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss to the second group, and The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper (or others) to the third.

3. Assist the groups in preparing, gathering materials for, and carrying out their lessons in perseverance.

4. **Follow Up:** For a real-life lesson in perseverance, “adopt” a stretch of roadway, several public gardens, or the like. As a group, set up a goal to make the area a more pleasant place (by picking up trash, digging weeds, etc.) Work long and hard (rain or shine) to complete the project … and this lesson in perseverance.
Reminder: Perseverance means steadfastness.

Plan on It

Name of the story: ____________________________________________________________

Author: ___________________________________________________________________

Brief description of the story: ________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

This story taught about perseverance by _______________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

By the end of this lesson, each student will be able to __________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

This is how our group will teach the lesson (step by step):

1. ______________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________

5. ______________________________________________________________________

These are the materials we will need to teach this lesson: ______________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Important questions: In the story, who persevered? If you were the character who persevered, how would you have convinced the others to help you? Why do you think that character persevered and didn’t quit? Write any other questions on the back of this sheet.

Today’s Thought: Many of life’s failures are people who do not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. — Thomas Edison, inventor