

# YOUNG MASTER CHALLENGE

## ENGLISH COMPETITION

### HONEYBEE & BUMBLEBEE FOCUS VALUE: PERSEVERANCE

#### Activity: "Perseverance Challenge"

**Objective:** To teach students the importance of perseverance, problem-solving, and resilience in the face of challenges.

#### Materials Needed:

1. A list of challenging tasks or problems (can be related to various subjects or general life challenges).
2. A timer or stopwatch.
3. A whiteboard or flipchart with markers.
4. Small prizes or rewards for motivation (optional).

#### Instructions:

1. **Introduction (10 minutes):** Begin the lesson by discussing the concept of perseverance. Explain that perseverance is the ability to keep going and stay committed when faced with difficulties or setbacks. It's an essential skill for success in school and life.
2. **Perseverance Discussion (15 minutes):** Engage the students in a group discussion about times when they've had to persevere in their lives. Encourage them to share their experiences and how they overcame challenges. Discuss the benefits of perseverance, such as personal growth, improved problem-solving skills, and achieving goals.
3. **Perseverance Stories (10 minutes):** Share inspirational stories of people who demonstrated perseverance in various fields, such as sports, science, or art. You can use videos, articles, or books to illustrate these stories.
4. **Perseverance Challenge (30 minutes):** Divide the class into small groups (3-4 students per group). Provide each group with a list of challenging tasks or problems. These tasks should be age-appropriate and relevant to their curriculum or life situations. For example, solving a complex math problem, writing a persuasive essay, or building a structure with limited resources.
5. **Challenge Instructions (5 minutes):** Explain the rules of the challenge:
  - Each group has a limited time to complete the task (e.g., 20 minutes).
  - They must work together, showing perseverance and problem-solving skills.
  - If they get stuck, they can ask for help or hints from the teacher (use this sparingly to encourage independent problem-solving).

- Emphasize that it's okay to make mistakes and learn from them.
6. **Challenge Time (20 minutes):** Start the timer and allow the groups to work on their challenges. Walk around the classroom, observing and offering guidance when necessary.
  7. **Debrief and Reflection (15 minutes):** After the challenge, reconvene the class and discuss the experience. Ask each group to share their experiences, what challenges they faced, and how they persevered. Encourage them to reflect on what they learned from this activity.
  8. **Conclusion and Awards (5 minutes):** Conclude the activity by emphasizing the importance of perseverance in their academic and personal lives. You can award small prizes or certificates to the groups that demonstrated exceptional perseverance or creative problem-solving.

This activity will not only teach students about perseverance but also give them a chance to put it into practice in a fun and engaging way. It's essential to create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere during the activity to make sure students feel comfortable taking risks and pushing through challenges.

**To help you get started, here are some short inspirational stories of individuals who demonstrated remarkable perseverance in the fields of sports, science, and art:**

**1. Wilma Rudolph (Sports):** Wilma Rudolph, an African American sprinter, overcame numerous challenges on her path to becoming an Olympic champion. She contracted polio as a child and was told she would never walk again. Despite the odds, she not only walked but also became a track and field star. In the 1960 Rome Olympics, she won three gold medals in sprinting events, proving that determination and hard work can triumph over adversity.

**2. Stephen Hawking (Science):** The renowned physicist Stephen Hawking faced the debilitating effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) since the age of 21. Despite his severe physical limitations, Hawking continued his groundbreaking research in theoretical physics. His work on black holes and the nature of the universe made him one of the most influential scientists of the 20th century. His story exemplifies the power of the human mind and determination.

**3. Vincent van Gogh (Art):** The Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh is now celebrated for his masterpieces, but during his lifetime, he struggled with mental health issues and poverty. Van Gogh's artistic journey was marked by rejection and criticism. Despite these challenges, he continued to create art with unwavering passion. His perseverance ultimately led to the creation of iconic works like "Starry Night."

**4. Michael Jordan (Sports):** Widely regarded as one of the greatest basketball players of all time, Michael Jordan initially faced rejection when he was cut from his high school basketball team. Instead of giving up, he worked tirelessly on his skills and eventually earned a spot on the team. His relentless work ethic and determination made him a six-time NBA champion and an inspiration to athletes worldwide.

**5. Marie Curie (Science):** Marie Curie was a pioneering physicist and chemist who conducted groundbreaking research on radioactivity. She faced significant obstacles as a woman in the male-dominated scientific community of her time. Despite the societal challenges, she became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and remains the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields.

**6. Maya Angelou (Art):** The acclaimed author and poet Maya Angelou endured a difficult childhood, marked by abuse and trauma. She transformed her experiences into powerful literature, including her renowned autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Angelou's work is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the ability to find strength and artistry in adversity.

These stories of perseverance in sports, science, and art serve as a reminder that determination, resilience, and hard work can lead to extraordinary achievements, even in the face of significant challenges. They can be used to inspire and motivate students to pursue their own goals with perseverance and resilience.

Also here's a list of challenging tasks and problems suitable for older teenagers. These challenges can be used to promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and perseverance:

### **1. Creative Writing Challenge:**

- Write a short story, poem, or essay on a given theme within a limited time frame.
- Create a unique, fictional world or character and write a compelling narrative around it.

### **2. Mathematical Puzzles:**

- Solve complex math problems or puzzles that require advanced algebra, geometry, or calculus skills.
- Create your own math puzzles or problems for your peers to solve.

### **3. Science Investigation:**

- Design and conduct a scientific experiment to answer a specific research question.
- Analyze and interpret data to draw meaningful conclusions.

### **4. Coding and Programming Challenge:**

- Develop a computer program or mobile app that solves a real-world problem.
- Debug and optimize an existing piece of code.

### **5. Engineering and Design Project:**

- Build a working model or prototype of a complex device or structure.
- Create a sustainable, environmentally friendly solution to a local problem.

### **6. Debate and Persuasion:**

- Participate in a formal debate on a controversial topic, presenting well-researched arguments.
- Write a persuasive speech on a global issue and deliver it in front of an audience.

### **7. History Research Project:**

- Investigate a historical event or figure, providing a comprehensive analysis.
- Reconstruct a significant event from history, such as a battle, treaty, or revolution, using primary sources.

### **8. Entrepreneurship Challenge:**

- Develop a business plan for a startup or innovative product.
- Create a marketing campaign for a new or existing product or service.

## **9. Social Issues Analysis:**

- Conduct a thorough analysis of a current social issue, such as climate change, inequality, or mental health, and propose practical solutions.
- Organize and participate in a community service project to address a local problem.

**10. Philosophy and Ethics Discussion:** - Engage in philosophical discussions or debates on topics like ethics, morality, or the nature of reality. - Analyse ethical dilemmas and propose solutions based on different ethical theories.

**11. Foreign Language Challenge:** - Give a presentation or write an essay in a foreign language, demonstrating proficiency. - Translate a text from one language to another, preserving both meaning and cultural nuances.

**12. Art and Creativity:** - Create a portfolio of original artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, or digital art. - Craft a piece of music or a short film, showcasing creativity and storytelling.

**13. Geography and Geopolitics Quiz:** - Compete in a challenging geography quiz covering countries, capitals, and global issues. - Analyse geopolitical conflicts and propose diplomatic solutions.

**14. Environmental Sustainability Project:** - Propose and implement an initiative to reduce the environmental impact of your school or community. - Calculate and reduce your carbon footprint through lifestyle changes.

**15. Media Literacy and Critical Analysis:** - Analyse a piece of media (e.g., a film, TV show, news article) for biases and its impact on society. - Create a multimedia presentation that educates peers about media literacy and its importance.

These challenging tasks and problems can be used to stimulate critical thinking, encourage perseverance, and promote personal growth among older teenagers. Teachers and mentors can adapt and modify these challenges to suit the specific needs and interests of their students.