

True Grit

An activity of "Grit: The power of passion and perseverance"

"Grit: The power of passion and perseverance" (page 20–21, *What's Up* July 2020) tells how passion and perseverance are the keys to success — not just intelligence or talent as is often thought. Read it and reflect on it. It will help you in life.

Described below are four individuals who have overcome huge obstacles in life with grit. They have then gone on to achieve great things. Use the scrambled letters in the brackets to correctly fill in the gaps to form their names. You may use key words to do an internet search.

1	<p>D_ W__l___ T__ (rimali an)</p> <p>His father was a very poor street vendor in Singapore. When he was two years old, he contracted polio and was paralysed from the waist down. At kindergarten, he was bullied for his disability and expelled when he retaliated. Determined to prove himself, he went on to top Selegie Primary before going to Raffles Institution. He also studied at Harvard and Oxford universities. He is now a medical doctor and a neuroscientist. He excels in sports. He represented Singapore at the Seoul Paralympics. He has completed 60 ultra-marathons around the world, and is the first man to complete the North Pole marathon on a wheelchair.</p>
2	<p>H_l__ K__l__ (ene reel)</p> <p>She was born in the USA. At 19 months of age, an unknown illness left her both deaf and blind. As a result, she could not speak. She described her early life as living "at sea in a dense fog". With help and sheer determination, she learned to read and write and even speak (though not clearly). She graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree — the first deaf-blind person to do so. She then went on to become an accomplished writer, a world-famous speaker, a political activist, and a campaigner for women's rights., Her main message was that lasting happiness can only be found in serving your fellow human beings.</p>
3	<p>L_____n___ T__ (auriate an)</p> <p>When only one week old, this Singapore-born girl was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and profound deafness. She could not even sit and was told said she would never walk. At age five, her parents started her on horse riding as a form of physiotherapy and to boost her self-esteem. Determined to be as good as her able-bodied friends, this young girl went on to be one of Singapore's best-known Paralympians. She won two bronze medals at the Beijing Paralympics and a silver and a bronze medal at the 2012 London Games. She is a Solidarity Ambassador for the International Federation for Equestrian Sports, the only Asian amongst the eight accomplished riders in the world to promote the organisation. She was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2014.</p>
4	<p>Des_____ B_r___ (unhaa baer)</p> <p>At age 19, while working part-time at a department store, this black American girl was approached by a woman she had never met before. The woman convinced her to try for the Miss USA title. Reluctantly, she entered the Miss District of Columbia pageant in 2009, which was a prerequisite. She did not win. The loss changed her life. Instead of giving up, she became all the more determined to win the title. She tried six times in six years to win the state title and failed each time. Finally, in 2016 she won and went on to be crowned Miss USA. She came in in the top nine of the Miss Universe competition that year. Now she is a motivational speaker— motivating people to never give up — and an activist for sexually abused children.</p>