

**StS Persistence Lesson 7th Grade 1/22**  
**If at first you don't succeed, try, try again**

**SAY: "Today we are going to talk about persistence."**

*Teacher should project slide #2.*

**SAY: "Persistence involves sustained effort over time and the ability to continue in the face of frustration and failure. We're going to watch a video about how John Legend became successful. As you are watching this video, think about how he is persistent."**

*Teacher plays video for students which is found on slide #3 of PPT.*

**SAY: "Please turn to your shoulder partner and discuss for two minutes how John Legend demonstrates persistence. Consider what strategies he used to persevere and find success. You might also want to consider what emotions you think John experienced during his journey to success."**

*At the end of 2 minutes, teacher should ask for a few students to share responses.*

**SAY: "I'd like to introduce the acronym: FIERCE."**

*Teacher refers to slide #4 of the PowerPoint and read, or asks for student volunteers to read, each letter.*

- **Flexibility when encountering Identified barriers**
- **Maintaining your Effort**
- **Knowing your Resources**
- **Staying Calm**
- **Evaluating your progress towards your long-term goal**

*Teacher should have **If At First You Don't Succeed** PowerPoint projected at slide #4. In this section students will have the opportunity to work in small groups of 3-4 students.*

**SAY: "Now that we've had the opportunity to discuss and identify elements of persistence, let's talk about some famous people who have had to overcome obstacles to reach their goals. We will discuss one as a class and use our FIERCE model. "**

**SAY: "Please take a 3-4 minutes to read about J.K. Rowling."**

**SAY: "Now that you have an idea of what challenges J.K. Rowling faced while pursuing her eventual success, let's look at how she was able to accomplish this."**

*Teacher should project slide # 6. Teacher asks volunteers to answer the following questions:*

**SAY: "In order to apply our FIERCE model, we need to identify a goal. What was J.K. Rowling's goal?"**

**SAY: "In the FIERCE Model, F and I are Flexibility when encountering Identified barriers. What were the identified barriers (obstacles) that J.K. Rowling experienced while trying to accomplish her goal? Consider both environmental and personal/emotional barriers, and how Rowling was flexible in overcoming those barriers."**

**SAY: "Next in the FIERCE model is E for maintaining your Effort. What strategies did J.K. Rowling use to remain persistent and overcome obstacles?"**

**SAY: "R is for knowing your Resources. What resources did JK Rowling use to overcome these obstacles?"**

**SAY: "C for staying Calm is next. How do you imagine J.K. Rowling felt as she struggled to achieve her goal?"**

**SAY: "The last letter is E for Evaluating your progress toward your goal. In what ways did JK Rowling evaluate her progress towards her goal along the way? Do you think she reflected on her progress at various points?"**

**SAY: “We have discussed how John Legend and J.K. Rowling exhibited persistence throughout their lives in order to achieve remarkable success. Consider the examples in their lives as well as in your own life, and we’ll create a list together of strategies that one can employ in order to remain persistent, reach established goals, and overcome challenges in life.”**

*Teacher should call on various students and records a list of strategies on the whiteboard or SMART Board.*

**Say:** “We will now watch a video entitled “The Relentless Squirrel vs. The Squirrel Baffle”

The teacher will show the Squirrel Video found at the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwH30DAQttQ>

Describe the habits of the squirrel-personality observed.

Ask students: Why was the squirrel able to succeed in reaching the food?

*Teacher should have **If At First You Don’t Succeed** PowerPoint projected at slide #8.*

**SAY: “Now, let’s reflect on what we have learned. Turn to a shoulder partner and take 2-3 minutes to read over the prompts and be prepared to share with the class.”**

Teacher should ask for student responses to the different prompts.

**SAY: “Life is full of challenges and obstacles, but as we learned today, persistence pays off. You can take the strategies learned today and apply them as you encounter challenges both at school, and home. Remember it is not the number of times you fail, but the number of times you get back up.”** (If time, watch “Famous Failures”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLYECjmnQs>)



