**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Homeroom**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***How Failure Can Help Us Succeed***

**Directions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

When you hear the word “failure”, what do you think? Would you ever consider labeling a celebrity as a “failure”? Many of us admire people for their accomplishments and the ways they impact our world. However, each of these people, and many more, have embraced[[1]](#footnote-1) failure and recognized the power failure can have when partnered with self-belief .

**Michael Jordan**

* *Considered the greatest basketball player of all-time*
* *Voted an NBA All-Star 14 times*
* *Won 6 NBA Championships*
* *Won 2 Olympic Gold Medals*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Did you know?** | **What is one action step Michael Jordan may have taken to persevere?** |
| * When Michael Jordan was in 10th grade, he didn’t make the Varsity team[[2]](#footnote-2).[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Over his career, Michael Jordan lost almost 300 games and missed over 12,000 shots.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* When his team counted on him to make the game-winning shot, Michael Jordan missed 26 times.
 |  |

Michael Jordan, Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jordan)

***How Failure Can Help Us Succeed* (Continued)**

**Issa Rae**

* *American actor, author, writer, producer*
* *Included in Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2018*
* *Received two Golden Globe nominations and two Primetime Emmy Award nominations*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Did you know?** | **What is one action step Issa Rae may have taken to persevere?** |
| * While nominated for two Golden Globes and two Primetime Emmy Awards—Issa has yet to win one of these prestigious awards.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* Issa Rae was rejected by a producer when she first pitched her television show *Insecure.*
 |  |

Issa Rae at BET's Black Girls Rock show, Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Issa_Rae)

**Reflection Questions for *How* *Failure Can Help Us Succeed***

|  |
| --- |
| How will you be remembered? List your future successes below: |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What challenges could you face in the future?** | **What action steps will take to address the challenge?** |
| *ex. Not knowing what to write my college admission essay about.* | *ex. I could talk to my family, friends and adults at school that I trust. I could ask them questions about our experiences together to help me brainstorm ideas for topics.* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Directions:** Review the accomplishments of Michael Jordan and Issa Rae. Reflect on your interests and use them to identify your goals and dreams. Then, answer the following questions in complete sentences.[[6]](#footnote-6)

very accomplishment begins with a dream. Michael Jordan’s passion for basketball and Issa Rae’s determination to do what she loves: writing, acting, and producing, began with an interest and transformed into a great success through perseverance.

**Stamp Your Learning for *How Failure Can Help Us Succeed***

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How will overcoming failure help you achieve your goals? Explain your thinking.

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1. How could self-belief have impacted Michael Jordan or Issa Rae’s motivation to overcome their challenges?

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1. Name a goal you’ve set for yourself either academically or behaviorally. How will seeing failure as a helpful experience help you achieve your goal?

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1. **embraced:** readily accepted [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Varsity team:** a team of the best players [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Chicago Tribune: It Comes to Tragic End for ‘Coach Who Cut Jordan’ by K. Sherrington <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1998-01-11-9801110412-story.html>. Accessed and edited on 11/1/19 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Scholastic Action: They All Failed! And You Can Too. Here’s Why Messing Up May Be the Secret to Success by T. Olson. <https://action.scholastic.com/issues/2018-19/020119/they-all-failed-how-to-fail-up.html#600L-700L> Accessed and edited on 11/1/19 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Wikipedia: Issa Rae <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Issa_Rae> Accessed on 11/10/20 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)