

## Perseverance of Michael Jordan

Good morning, teachers and students. Today, I'd like to share with you the secret of success of a famous American professional basketball player, Michael Jordan.

**Michael Jordan is regarded as the greatest basketball player of all time.** He played 15 seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards. He made NBA of the United States popular around the world in the 1980s and 1990s. Michael Jordan has also gained a reputation for being one of the best defensive players in basketball. His unbelievable leaping ability earned him the nickname Air Jordan. His individual accomplishments include six NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards, nine All-Defensive First Team honors, fourteen NBA All-Star Game selections, three All-Star Game MVP Awards, and the 1988 NBA Defensive Player of the Year Award. He holds the NBA records for highest career regular season scoring average (30.12 points per game). In 1999, Michael Jordan was named the greatest North American athlete of the 20th century by ESPN (the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network).

With such a great achievement, Michael Jordan is the right person to share with us the importance of perseverance and hard work.

**To start with, Michael Jordan emphasizes the importance of perseverance and the “never-give-up” spirit.** Michael Jordan always encourages others not to give up and keep on trying. Let me share with you his famous wise sayings on perseverance. First, “I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.” Second, “Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.” Third, “I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. **I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.**” In other words, Michael Jordan thinks that perseverance is very important. Even if you have failed many

times, just persist and carry on and you will succeed. **Gold medals are not really made of gold. They are made of sweat, tears, determination and guts.** You cannot win unless you learn how to lose. The only way to prove that you are successful is to lose. Adversity causes some men to break down, but others to break records. Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential.

**Secondly, Michael Jordan emphasizes the importance of hard work.** His famous wise sayings on hard work include: First, “The game has its ups and downs, but you can never lose focus of your individual goals and you can't let yourself be beat because of lack of effort.” In other words, to be successful, you must put effort and work hard. Second, “**Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.**” This means to be successful, you must work hard and make it happen, but not wait for it to happen. Third, “I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come.” Fourth, “Be true to the game, because the game will be true to you. **If you try to shortcut the game, then the game will shortcut you.** If you put forth the effort, good things will be bestowed upon you. That's truly about the game, and in some ways that's about life too.” Boys and girls, there is really no shortcut for success, and only hard work and effort can bring you success.

In conclusion, boys and girls, learn from Michael Jordan the importance of perseverance and hard work. Michael Jordan says, “**All I knew is that I never wanted to be average.**” Always turn a negative situation into a positive one. With perseverance, we soar high.