### Rules to Live By - Extension Menu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In the article “The Many Causes of the Great Depression” you learn</strong></td>
<td>Create a digital timeline of events (in chronological order) of the Great Depression. Include a picture, description, and date for 6-10 events in US History that were a part of the Great Depression.</td>
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<td><strong>Rules to Live By…</strong></td>
<td>A commencement speech is given to students graduating from high school or college. It is typically advice for the new graduates. Read the commencement speech given by Denzel Washington to the students of Penn. State (attached in packet). Compare it to Steve Jobs' speech. Write a letter to your teacher sharing the similarities from both speeches and tell how can the messages be applied to your life.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explore this PBS website on the history of Jazz music.</strong></td>
<td>Explore this PBS website on the history of Jazz music. <a href="http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/jazz/home/">http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/jazz/home/</a> Create a PowerPoint presentation on 3-6 famous Jazz musicians. For each musician include pictures, a short biography, and attach a musical clip of their work. Be prepared to share your information with the class.</td>
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<td><strong>Bud, Not Buddy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student Choice</strong></td>
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<td>won both the Coretta Scott King Award and the Newbury Book Award.</td>
<td>You must get your teacher’s approval before starting your project. <strong>Bud, Not Buddy</strong> won both the Coretta Scott King Award and the Newbury Book Award. Interview your school librarian and search the internet to find out more about these awards. Choose one of the awards and make a poster telling why the award is given and include a list of 5-10 books and authors that have won the award.</td>
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<td><strong>Interview your school librarian and search the internet to find out</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research what life was like in a &quot;Hooverville&quot; in the 1930s. What was the cause of Hoovervilles and what effect did it have on people and the government. Create a digital presentation of life in a Hooverville that is set to time period music. You must include information to help others understand the plight of people living in these areas. The final portion of your presentation should include a comparison of Hoovervilles to today’s homeless camps.</strong></td>
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| **Riding the Rails** - Bud traveled from Flint to Grand Rapids, Michigan.** | **Re-create Bud’s Suitcase** – You will need to create a replica of Bud’s suitcase. Include all the items that were in his suitcase. You may need to find some items at home, and create some kind of suitcase to look like what Bud’s looked like (cardboard is okay). On the back of the suitcase include a list of each item and why it was important to Bud. You will need to present your suitcase to the class. **Read Christopher Paul Curtis’s novel The Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963. Make a list of ways in which you see similarities between the books based on the author’s style of writing. Then find out more about the author by reading the afterword to Bud, Not Buddy and by looking for biographical information on the Internet. Write a letter to the author in which you share your responses to his books and ask him some questions. Edit your letter carefully and send it to him in care of his publisher. **

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Revised 12/12/17
The Many Causes of the Great Depression

By David M. Kennedy, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, adapted by Newsela staff

12/18/2016

Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States, served just one term in office, but it was a memorable one. It was defined by the stock market crash of 1929 and the beginnings of the Great Depression.

Economists and historians continue today to debate the causes of the Great Depression. There is little doubt that there is a link to World War I. The fighting had taken a cruel toll on key economies, like Britain, France and Germany. These countries were the core societies of the advanced industrialized world. Disruptions in trade and the flow of money continued after the war ended. Furthermore, bitter memories of the war left countries feeling at odds with one another, preventing them from forming a unified approach to deal with the frail global economy.

The United States' actions in World War I were minor and only occurred toward the end of the conflict that lasted from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918. The country's role went against its tradition of not involving itself in Europe's affairs. This resulted in Americans turning their country even more inward during the 1920s. The United States disarmed its military forces and war machinery. The Senate refused to approve the Treaty of Versailles, which was a peace agreement between Germany and the Allied Powers (predominately Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy) to end World War I.

Turning their backs on the outside world

The Senate also rejected membership in the League of Nations, which was an international organization formed to resolve disputes between countries, even though it had been promoted by former President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1922, Congress passed one of the highest taxes in history on those who sold foreign goods in the U.S., which hurt trading between countries.

Meanwhile, the federal government insisted throughout the 10 years after the war that the Europeans must repay all the loans given to them by the U.S. Treasury. This was a hardship for the countries recovering from war.

In 1924, America, for the first time in its history, imposed a strict limit on the number of immigrants who could annually enter the country. Millions of people were turned away.
Militarily, diplomatically, commercially, financially and morally, Americans seemed to be turning their backs on the outside world.

As the Great Depression began to unfold, a private and dysfunctional banking system made its way into the modern era. It made for an unstable foundation for the national credit. Meanwhile, the government's public spending was low. The federal government was in a weak state to fight the looming depression.

**The Great Crash bursts the bubble**

In October of 1929, the bubble burst. Known as the Great Crash, stock prices plunged. Thousands of banks failed. Tens of thousands of businesses collapsed. Millions of people became unemployed. Herbert Hoover had been elected president just months earlier. He would forever be known for not being able to save the country from the Great Depression, though he tried.

By 1932, about 13 million Americans were out of work. This equaled 1 out of every 4 workers in the country. Many Americans believed they were witnessing not just a massive market downturn, but the collapse of a historic economic, political and social order. Perhaps this would be the end of the American way of life.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, commonly known as FDR, was elected president in 1932. He promised “a new deal for the American people.” FDR brought with him to the presidency, and the American people, one simple and supremely important belief: that American life could be made more secure. His results transformed American society. FDR held office for more than a dozen years. He was elected president three times, a record unmatched by previous presidents and forbidden for all future presidents when the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1951.

FDR, like Hoover before him, never did find a remedy for the Great Depression. It hung heavily over the land through virtually all of Hoover’s presidency, through FDR’s first two terms, down to 1940 and even beyond. Before World War II came along and revolutionized all political and economic formulas, none of FDR’s exertions managed to drop the unemployment rate below 14 percent.

**The New Deal, and war**

But FDR’s New Deal invented new governmental institutions to bring strength to the shaky banks, stock exchanges and labor. A comprehensive system of unemployment and retirement money to protect laid-off workers and the elderly was enacted. Achieving secure, stable lives for Americans was the main goal of the New Deal’s many programs.

The world the American people tried to shut out after World War I could not be kept at bay, however. Adolf Hitler of Germany came to power within weeks of FDR taking office in 1933.

The entire history of Roosevelt’s presidency unfolded under the shadow of Hitler’s dictatorship and the rising threat of Nazism. The story of the Great Depression is not simply the story of the American people during
some of the hardest times in its history. It is also part of a larger story of people in every part of the world who were swept up in the enormous hardships of the Great Depression and, ultimately, World War II.

David M. Kennedy is the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History at Stanford University. He wrote "Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger" (1970) and "Over Here: The First World War and American Society" (1980).
Penn Commencement Address given Monday, May 16, 2011 by Denzel Washington, Academy Award-winning and Tony Award-winning actor and director. Some parts have been edited out to shorten the speech.

Fall Forward

... Still, I’ll be honest with you: I’m a little nervous. Speaking at a graduation of this magnitude is a little overwhelming. This is out of my comfort zone. Dress me up in army fatigues. Throw me on top of a moving train. Ask me to play Malcolm X, Rubin Hurricane Carter, Alonzo from Training Day: I can do all that.

But a commencement speech? It’s a very serious affair. Different ballgame. There’s literally thousands and thousands of people here. And for those who say—you’re a movie star, millions of people watch you speak all the time... ... Yes, that’s technically true. But I’m not actually there in the theater—watching them watching me. I’m not there when they cough... or fidget... or pull out their iPhone and text their boyfriend... or scratch their behinds. From up here: I can see every single one of you. And that makes me uncomfortable.

So please, don’t pull out your iPhone and text your boyfriend until after I’m done. ... So, I had to be here. I had to come... even though I was afraid I might make a fool of myself. In fact... if you really want to know the truth: I had to come... exactly because I might make a fool of myself.

What am I talking about? Well, here it is: I’ve found that nothing in life is worthwhile unless you take risks. Nothing. Nelson Mandela said: “There is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that’s less than the one you’re capable of living.” I’m sure in your experiences—in school... in applying to college... in picking your major... in deciding what you want to do with life—people have told you to make sure you have something to “fall back on.”

But I’ve never understood that concept, having something to fall back on. If I’m going to fall, I don’t want to fall back on anything, except my faith. I want to fall... forward. At least I figure that way I’ll see what I’m about to hit.

Fall forward.

Here’s what I mean:
Reggie Jackson struck out twenty-six-hundred times in his career—the most in the history of baseball. But you don’t hear about the strikeouts. People remember the home runs.

Fall forward.
Thomas Edison conducted 1,000 failed experiments. Did you know that? I didn’t either—because #1,001 was the light bulb.

Fall forward.

Revised 12/12/17
Every failed experiment is one step closer to success. You’ve got to take risks. And I’m sure you’ve probably heard that before. But I want to talk about why it’s so important. I’ve got three reasons—and then you can pick up your iPhones.

First... you will fail at some point in your life. Accept it. You will lose. You will embarrass yourself. You will suck at something. There is no doubt about it. That’s probably not a traditional message for a graduation ceremony. But, hey, I’m telling you—embrace it. Because it’s inevitable. And I should know: In the acting business, you fail all the time.

Early in my career, I auditioned for a part in a Broadway musical. A perfect role for me, I thought—except for the fact that I can’t sing. So, I’m in the wings, about to go on stage but the guy in front of me is singing like Pavarotti and I am just shrinking getting smaller and smaller... So, I come out with my little sheet music and it was “Just My Imagination” by the Temptations, that’s what I came up with. So, I hand it to the accompanist, and she looks at it and looks at me and looks at the director, so I start to sing and they’re not saying anything. I think I must be getting better, so I start getting into it. But after the first verse, the director cuts me off: “Thank you. Thank you very much, you’ll be hearing from me.” The next part of the audition is the acting part. I figure, I can’t sing, but I know I can act. But the guy I was paired with to do the scene couldn’t be more over dramatic and over-the top. Suffice to say, I didn’t get the part.

But here’s the thing: I didn’t quit. I didn’t fall back. I walked out of there to prepare for the next audition, and the next audition, and the next one. I prayed and I prayed, but I continued to fail, and I failed, and I failed. But it didn’t matter. Because you know what? You hang around a barbershop long enough—sooner or later you will get a haircut.

You will catch a break. Last year I did a play called Fences on Broadway and I won a Tony Award. And I didn’t have to sing for it, by the way. And here’s the kicker—it was at the Court Theater, the same theater where I failed that first audition 30 years prior. The point is, every graduate here today has the training and the talent to succeed. But do you have guts to fail?

Here’s my second point about failure:
If you don’t fail... you’re not even trying.

My wife told me this expression: “To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.” Les Brown, a motivational speaker, made an analogy about this. Imagine you’re on your deathbed—and standing around your bed are the ghosts representing your unfilled potential. The ghosts of the ideas you never acted on. The ghosts of the talents you didn’t use. And they’re standing around your bed. Angry. Disappointed. Upset. “We came to you because you could have brought us to life,” they say. “And now we go to the grave together.” So, I ask you today: How many ghosts are going to be around your bed when your time comes? You invested a lot in your education. And people invested in you. And let me tell you, the world needs your talents. Man, does it ever.

I just got back from four months of filming in South Africa—beautiful country, but there are places with terrible poverty that need help. And Africa is just the tip of the iceberg. The Middle East needs your help. Japan needs your help. Alabama and Tennessee need your help. Louisiana needs your help. Philadelphia needs your help. The world needs a lot—and we need it from you, the young people.

So, get out there. Give it everything you’ve got—whether it’s your time, your talent, your prayers, or your treasure. Because remember this: You’ll never see a U-haul behind a hearse.

You can’t take it with you. The Ancient Egyptians tried it—and all they got was robbed!

So, what are you going to do with what you have? And I’m not talking how much you have. Some of you are business majors. Some of you are theologians, nurses, sociologists. Some of you have money. Some of you have patience. Some
have kindness. Some have love. Some of you have the gift of long-suffering. Whatever it is... what are you going to do with what you have?

Now here’s my last point about failure:
Sometimes it’s the best way to figure out where you’re going.
Your life will never be a straight path.
I began at Fordham University as a pre-med student. That lasted until I took a course called “Cardiac Morphogenesis.” I couldn’t pronounce it... and I couldn’t pass it. Then I decided to go pre-law. Then journalism. With no academic focus, my grades took off in their own direction: down. My GPA was 1.8 one semester, and the university very politely suggested it might be better to take some time off. I was 20 years old, at my lowest point.

And then one day—and I remember the exact day: March 27th, 1975—I was helping out in the beauty shop my mother owned in Mount Vernon. An older woman who belonged to my mother’s church, one of the elders of the town, was in there getting her hair done and kept giving me these strange looks. She finally took the drier off her head and said something to me I’ll never forget:

“Young boy,” she said. “I have a spiritual prophecy: you are going to travel the world and speak to millions of people.”
Like a wise-guy, I’m thinking to myself: “Does she got anything in that crystal ball about me getting back to college in the fall?” But maybe she was on to something. Because later that summer, while working as a counselor at a YMCA camp in Connecticut, we put on a talent show for the campers. After the show, another counselor came up to me and asked: “Have you ever thought of acting? You should. You’re good at that.” When I got back to Fordham that fall I changed my major once again —for the last time. And in the years that followed—just as that woman getting her hair done predicted—I have traveled the world and I have spoken to millions of people through my movies. Millions who—up ‘till today—I couldn’t see while I was talking to them. . . .

And I can’t think of a better message as we send you off today.
To not only take risks, but to be open to life.
To accept new views and to be open to new opinions.
To be willing to speak at commencement at one of the country’s best universities... even though you’re scared stiff.
While it may be frightening, it will also be rewarding.
Because the chances you take... the people you meet... the people you love...the faith that you have—that’s what’s going to define your life.
So... members of the class of 2011: This is your mission:
When you leave the friendly confines of West Philly: Never be discouraged. Never hold back. Give everything you’ve got.
And when you fall throughout life—fall forward.
Congratulations, I love you, God bless you, I respect you.