

# The Inquiry

## GRADE 6 UNIT 1: COURAGE FOR FAILURE

### UNDERSTANDING AND CREATING EVIDENCE-BASED CLAIMS



Everyone knows that failing feels terrible. That test you studied so hard for, the competition which you dedicated so much time and energy into, or even a time when you really wanted to help somebody but your efforts were just not enough. Failing is something we usually associate with shame, hurt feelings, despair, or even anger.

**WELCOME TO ELA WITH MISS JENNY**

Dear Parents,

My name is Jennifer Parkinson, but in the QISS community everyone calls me Miss Jenny. I am delighted to be the new 6th and 7th Grade ELA teacher, this year. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

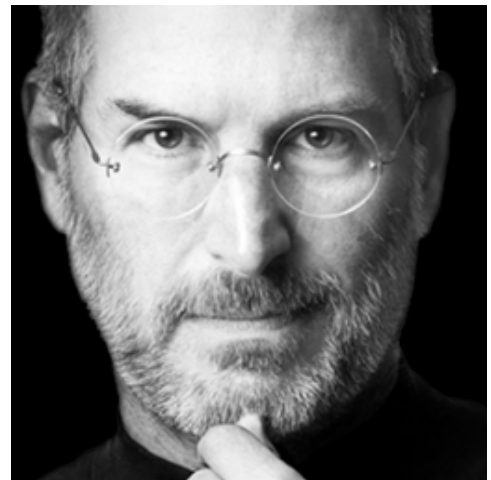
email: [jparkinsonqiss@yahoo.com](mailto:jparkinsonqiss@yahoo.com)

wechat: Jenny523350

room: US301

In due course, I will put the course website on-line, which will keep you updated on events, class activities, and standards. For now, please find attached a detailed outline of Common Core Standards

But is failure exclusively a negative experience? Is there something that can be learned from failing? We will search for evidence in prominent examples of people, who have failed (very publicly) on their long, hard path to success. Examples include Apple Inc. CEO, Steve Jobs, world renowned author, J.K. Rowling, or even the famously relentless Wright Brothers. We will explore how failure is also a significant theme in poetry, by writer such as Philip Larkin and Langston Hughes. In addition, we will search for evidence in contemporary research on 'Fixed Mindset vs Growth Mindset', and analyse how this relates to other texts, but also how it relates to our own approach of dealing with failure. At the end of the unit, the students will be able to express their opinion in a cohesive, written form by referencing existing evidence.



#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Can failure be useful?
- What can we learn from failure?
- What is a fixed/growth mindset?
- How can reading and writing about failure help us gain courage?
- What is an evidence-based claim?
- How do I successfully make evidence-based claim?

