

These brothers battled depression and family illness before starting the bicycle shop that would lead them to experimenting with flight. After numerous attempts at creating flying machines, several years of hard work, and tons of failed prototypes, the brothers finally created a plane that could get airborne and stay there.

Perhaps better known as Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame, this man had a hard time selling his chicken at first. In fact, his famous secret chicken recipe was rejected 1,009 times before a restaurant accepted it.

Today nearly every child has read *The Cat in the Hat* or *Green Eggs and Ham*, yet 27 different publishers rejected Dr. Seuss's first book *To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*.

Few people can deny the lasting power of this super group, still popular with listeners around the world today. Yet when they were just starting out, a recording company told them no. They were told "we don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out," two things the rest of the world couldn't have disagreed with more.

Most people wouldn't believe that a man often lauded as the best basketball player of all time was actually cut from his high school basketball team. Luckily, he didn't let this setback stop him from playing the game and he has stated, "I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

As he coach of the Dallas Cowboys, this man brought the team two Super Bowl victories, five NFC Championship victories and holds the records for the record for the most career wins. He also has the distinction of having one of the worst first seasons on record (winning no games) and winning five or fewer over the next four seasons.

While today this man's name is synonymous with big budget, he was rejected from the University of Southern California School of Theater, Film and Television three times. He eventually attended school at another location, only to drop out to become a director before finishing. Thirty-five years after starting his degree, he returned to school in 2002 to finally complete his work and earn his BA.

In his first film, this actor was told by the movie execs that he simply didn't have what it takes to be a star. Today, with numerous hits under his belt, iconic portrayals of characters like Han Solo and Indiana Jones, and a career that stretches decades, he can proudly show that he does, in fact, have what it takes.

In his early years, this scientist gave up on having a medical career and was often chastised by his father for being lazy and too dreamy. He wrote, "I was considered by all my masters and my father, a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard of intellect." Perhaps they judged too soon, as he today is well-known for his scientific studies.

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While today he is remembered as one of the greatest leaders of our nation, this president's life wasn't so easy. In his youth he went to war a captain and returned a private (if you're not familiar with military ranks, just know that private is as low as it goes.) He didn't stop failing there, however. He started numerous failed businesses and was defeated in numerous runs he made for public office.

In his early years, teachers told this man he was "too stupid to learn anything." Work was no better, as he

was fired from his first two jobs for not being productive enough. Even as an inventor, he made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. Of course, all those unsuccessful attempts finally resulted in the design that worked.

Most of us take this man's name as synonymous with genius, but he didn't always show such promise. He did not speak until he was four and did not read until he was seven, causing his teachers and parents to think he was mentally handicapped, slow and anti-social. Eventually, he was expelled from school and was refused admittance to the Zurich Polytechnic School. It might have taken him a bit longer, but most people would agree that he caught on pretty well in the end, winning the Nobel Prize and changing the face of modern physics.

Today the company named after this man rakes in billions from merchandise, movies and theme parks around the world, but the man himself had a bit of a rough start. He was fired by a newspaper editor because, "he lacked imagination and had no good ideas." After that, he started a number of businesses that didn't last too long and ended with bankruptcy and failure. He kept plugging along, however, and eventually found a recipe for success that worked.

His band opened for the pop band the Monkees in 1967 and he was repeatedly booed off the stage. After cursing at one audience during a show, this guitar player was dropped from the tour. He later went on to be one of the mainliners for Woodstock in 1969. He was later inducted into both the American and British Hall of Fame and was listed as the greatest guitar player by Rolling Stone.

When she was 22, this TV star was fired from her job as an evening news reporter. She was moved to the morning news show. Although the move was a step down, she was able to establish herself and met the man who would become her producer. After creating a show named after her, this woman now owns an entire network named after her.

This 3M scientist was trying to create synthetic rubber for fuel lines. One day this new substance spilled onto her assistant's shoe. As the shoe became older, it became dingy and gross – except for where the substance had spilled. This woman had accidentally invented Scotchgard, a cleaning liquid meant to protect fabric from dirt.

In 1930 this woman was baking cookies and ran out of baking chocolate for making chocolate cookies. Instead

of buying more baking chocolate, she broke up semi-sweet chocolate and put the chunks into the cookie dough, thinking that the chocolate would melt and create chocolate cookies. Instead the chocolate stayed whole and chocolate chip cookies were born in a small hotel called the Toll House Inn.

This WWI vet, Senator, Vice President and eventual President eventually found success in his life, but not without a few missteps along the way. He started a store that sold silk shirts and other clothing—seemingly a success at first—only go bankrupt a few years later.

Envelope 3

This person dropped out of college to start a computer company. When he was 30 years old, he was fired from his own company, fired by the man that he had hired to be CEO. Although he later returned to the company and made it one of the most profitable companies in America, this man says that being fired was one of the “best thing[s] that could ever have happened” to him.

This author worked first as an English teacher and sold short stories on the side to help make money. His first book was rejected 30 times, and disappointed, he threw

the book into the waste basket. At the urging of his wife, he resubmitted the book and it went on to become a best-selling hit that has been made into two movies. He has now sold over 300 million books. His first book was *Carrie*.

This woman was a secretary in the late 1940s who was frustrated with her typing mistakes. In those days, if you made a mistake typing, you had to retype the entire page. After reflecting that painters don't have to repaint every one of their artworks, she tried to make a paint to cover up her typing mistakes. After trying lots of different options, she created Liquid Paper and made millions of dollars.

During his lifetime, this painter sold only one painting, and this was to a friend and only for a very small amount of money. While he was never a success during his life, he plugged on with painting, sometimes starving to complete his over 800 known works. Today, they bring in hundreds of millions.

This author may be rolling in a lot of Harry Potter dough today, but before she published the series of novels she was nearly penniless, severely depressed, divorced, trying to raise a child on her own while attending school and writing a novel. She went from depending on welfare to survive to being one of the richest women in the world in a span of

only five years through her hard work and determination.

You probably know this baseball player because of his home run record (714 during his career), but along with all those home runs came a pretty hefty amount of strikeouts as well (1,330 in all). In fact, for decades he held the record for strikeouts. When asked about this he simply said, "Every strike brings me closer to the next home run."

In his formative years, this young composer was incredibly awkward on the violin and was often so busy working on his own compositions that he neglected to practice. Despite his love of composing, his teachers felt he was hopeless at it and would never succeed with the violin or in composing. He kept plugging along, however, and composed some of the best-loved symphonies of all time—five of them while he was completely deaf.

As one of the best-selling artists of all time, this singer has become a household name even years after his death. But back in 1954, he was still a nobody, and Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired him after just one performance telling him, "You ain't goin' nowhere, son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck."

This scientist was undoubtedly a genius when it came to math, but he had some failings early on. He

never did particularly well in school and when put in charge of running the family farm, he failed miserably, so poorly in fact that an uncle took charge and sent him off to Cambridge where he finally blossomed into the scholar we know today.
