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# A SECOND CHANCE

a short film by paul hopkins & joel suzuki

**TRAINER'S GUIDE**



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## TRAINER'S GUIDE

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### A Second Chance Trainer's Guide

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# just for the trainer: why tell stories?

**a**t a deep level, if you are a trainer, you know people don't want more information. They are up to their eyeballs in information.

As a trainer, having a story to tell is the most valuable skill you can develop to help others learn. It is through the stories you tell that your audiences determine if they hold the same values that you do. It is through listening to your stories that they relate to your teaching.

Ultimately, you should tell your own story. But we know that is not always easy. For this reason, Star Thrower has created four stories to help you "tell a story." Each of these stories is about creating a second chance. The purpose is not to introduce more information, only to reinforce the idea that people can create a second chance.

**Robert Frost— A Second Chance Story**

**Professor Randy Pausch— Brick Walls**

**General David Petraeus— A Soldier's Story**

**Charles Darrow— Do Not Pass Go**

After showing the program, select one of these stories to share with your learners. Ask questions relevant to creating a second chance.

**What was the single event that caused each person in the story to create a second chance?**

**What can you do to create a second chance for yourself?**

**How can you help others create a second chance?**

“ To accomplish great things, we must not only act,  
but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. ”

—Anatole France  
Nobel Prize in Literature



# a second chance story: robert frost

Robert Frost was one of America’s finest 20th century poets. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize four times.

Frost was born in San Francisco and lived there for eleven years until his father, William Prescott Frost Jr., a journalist, died. To support the family, Frost’s mother resumed her career as a schoolteacher in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

After graduating from high school in 1892, Frost attended Dartmouth College for a few months. He left Dartmouth and throughout the next ten years held a variety of jobs. Frost worked in a textile mill, and also taught Latin at his mother’s school in Methuen, Massachusetts. He moved to Derry, New Hampshire to work as a cobbler, farmer, and teacher.

Frost enjoyed writing. When he sent his poems to *The Atlantic Monthly*, they were returned with this note: “We regret that *The Atlantic* has no place for your vigorous verse.”

Frost sold the farm in Derry in 1912 and moved his wife and their four children to England. There, at the age of 39, he finally published his first collection of poems: *A Boy’s Will*. It was followed by *North Boston* (1914), which gained international reputation.

In 1915, Frost returned to the US and bought a farm near Franconia, New Hampshire. When the editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* asked for poems, he submitted the very ones that had previously been rejected.

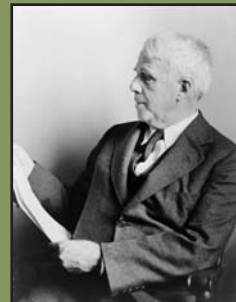
Frost taught at Amherst College (1916—38), and in 1916, was granted membership to the National Institute of Arts and Letters. In that same year, his third collection of verse, *Mountain Interval*, was published. It contained his most famous poem, *The Road Not Taken*.

President John F. Kennedy said, “He has bequeathed his nation a body of imperishable verse from which Americans will forever gain joy and understanding.”

Robert Frost lived and taught for many years in Massachusetts and Vermont, and died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

“ Do not follow where the path may lead...  
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. ”

—Robert Frost  
Poet and Playwright



# a second chance story: brick walls

Brick walls are there for a reason, explains Professor Randy Pausch, author of *The Last Lecture*. He chides his readers: “Even if someone had to practically throw you over the wall, you should take time to tell others how you did it.”

In his last lecture at Carnegie Mellon, which he entitled *Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*, Pausch explains how he achieved them and how he helped others achieve theirs. “Never lose the childlike wonder,” he advised. “Show gratitude... Don’t complain; just work harder... Never give up.”

In September of 2007, Randy Pausch was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. What started out to be a last farewell to his students has turned into a remarkable story of sharing his philosophy. More than six million people have watched the hour-long lecture on YouTube.

However, becoming a professor at Carnegie Mellon almost didn’t happen. After graduating from Brown University, Pausch applied to Carnegie Mellon for graduate school. “They saw my reasonable grades and my lackluster graduate-exam scores. They reviewed my application. And they rejected me.”

After accepting the assistance of a long time professor from Brown and meeting with several faculty members at Carnegie Mellon, he was accepted. He got his PhD and began his career as a college professor.

“Until I got on stage at my last lecture, I had never told students or colleagues at Carnegie Mellon that I had been rejected when I applied there.”

“It’s interesting, the secrets you decide to reveal at the end of your life.”

**Adapted from *The Last Lecture*** by Randy Pausch, Professor, Carnegie Mellon with Barry Zaslow. Hyperion, ©Copyright 2008.

“ The brick walls are not there to keep us out;  
the brick walls are there to give us a chance to show  
how badly we want something. ”

— Randy Pausch  
Professor and Author



# a second chance story: a soldier's story

In 1991 during a live-fire exercise at the United States Army Range at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, a young soldier named Specialist Terrence Jones tripped and accidentally fired his weapon while conducting an assault.

The bullet from Jones' weapon struck a fellow soldier, slamming through his chest and taking a piece of his back on the way out. He fell to the ground, bleeding out of his mouth. He nearly died. But didn't. In fact, he was released from the hospital only a few days later.

The best that Specialist Jones might have hoped for was a painless end to his military service. After all, he had not just shot a fellow soldier; he had shot a superior officer.

Conventional wisdom demands that for balance to be restored after accidentally shooting and nearly killing a superior officer, a sacrifice of some magnitude is necessary. A soldier can't shoot a commander in the chest and simply walk away.

For Specialist Jones, the punishment came as quite a surprise. Instead of dismissal from the Army, he was given a recommendation to attend Ranger School, an intense, nine-week combat leadership course, by the very officer he had shot.

The officer? He went on to command the Multi-National Forces in Iraq and was honored by Time Magazine as Person of the Year in 2007. The person who gave the young soldier a second chance? General David Petraeus.

Adapted from **Moment of Truth in Iraq: How a New 'Greatest Generation' of American Soldiers is Turning Defeat and Disaster into Victory and Hope** by Michael Yon (Hardcover - April 1, 2008)

“ When someone gives you a second chance,  
you should pass it along. ”

—Unknown

# a second chance story: do not pass go

The U.S. Patent Office granted Charles Darrow U.S. Patent 2,026,082. It was for a game his family enjoyed playing, a game called Monopoly®. An unemployed heating engineer living near Philadelphia, Darrow presented his first version of the game to a toy company in 1935. There were a number of similar games on the market, and the company, Milton Bradley, rejected the game for 52 “fundamental errors.” He offered the game to still another company, Parker Brothers. Again he was rejected. They explained the game was too lengthy, too complex, and had no apparent goal of determining a winner.

Undaunted, Darrow created his second chance. After making a few changes and printing the game on cardboard, he enlisted the help of his wife and son to create the board pieces. He sold copies of the game in long white boxes to Wanamaker’s Department Store in Philadelphia. Soon after that, Parker Brothers bought the rights from Darrow.

Darrow persisted, and today the game is so successful that its publisher prints more than \$40 billion of Monopoly money each year. That’s twice the amount of real money printed annually by the U.S. Mint.

A few years after Darrow’s death in 1967, Atlantic City, New Jersey erected a commemorative plaque in his honor. It stands on the Boardwalk near the corner of Park Place.

Charles Darrow’s commemorative plaque erected in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on the Boardwalk near the corner of Park Place.

