

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

The Last Lecture Lesson Plans

Supplemental Assignments

BEFORE starting the book:

1. Life List

Write down 25-50 items that you hope to accomplish in your life. (MAKE it an IMPORTANT part of your life. Look at it regularly!)

After reading the forward:

2. Family Stories

The “family stories” activity encourages students to interact with family members. It is a great assignment to complete during a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. The lesson was inspired by the following selection.

“All parents want to teach their children right from wrong, what we think is important, and how to deal with the challenges life will bring. We also want them to know some stories from our lives.” (page ix)

Students will collect one personal story from three different family members. (The number of stories is random. It might be best to start with just one story). Students are encouraged to interact with as many generations as possible. If possible, the students should try to get connect with the oldest generation of their family. Students can select the method of recording the stories. Some options include interviewing a person over the phone, using a pen and paper to record the responses. Other methods of communication could be to email or video chat with the person. Other students might choose to videotape the interview.

After Chapter 2

3. Who Are YOU? Essay

What type of legacy have you created in your life thus far? What makes you unique? Define yourself in a 500 word essay

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The Last Lecture: Week 1- Read Introduction & Chapter 1

What information would you want to leave to your children if you were in Randy's shoes?

"If I were a painter, I would have painted for them. If I were a musician, I would have composed music. But I am a lecturer. So I lectured." – use your talents.

A. Explain & Describe 1 – 3 talents you have.

B. Explain how you developed these or are developing these talents.

C. Explain how you use them or can use them to help others.

Why was it so important for Randy to do this lecture?

What were some of the barriers he had to push through to accomplish his dream?

Is it important for you to leave behind a legacy? What type of legacy do you want to leave behind?

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The Last Lecture: Week 2

Read Ch 2: My Life in a Laptop

Read Ch 3: The Elephant in the Room

"I thought about how I defined myself: as a teacher, a computer scientist, a husband, a father, a son, a friend, a brother, a mentor to my students. Those are all the roles I value." (page 10) **Explain THREE of "the roles (you) value." Explain why you value each of these roles. Why are these roles important to you?**

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." (page 17)
Explain a "tough hand" in life you have been dealt and how you "played the hand."
This hand could be something out of your control – a birth defect, divorce, accident, moving – or something you controlled – an arrest, a bad grade, a bad decision. In your answer:

A. Explain the "hand"

B. Explain "how you played it"

C. Describe how you feel about how you played it

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Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams –

Select a **CURRENT** dream of yours. Something you are very passionate and enthusiastic about. **Write about what it is. Why it is important? How will you progress toward that dream?**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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The Last Lecture: Week 3

Read Ch 4: The Parent Lottery

Read Ch 5: The Elevator in the Ranch House

"I had a father and a mother who got so many things right." (page 22) Make a list of at least 15 things your parents got right.

Explain 2 piece of valuable advice you have received from your parents.

"Kids more than anything else – need to know their parents love them." (page 26)
How do you know that your parents love you? How do your parents know that you love them?

"I want to paint things on my wall. Things that matter to me. Things I think will be cool." (page 27) List 10 things that would be on your wall? Explain the significance of each item.

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If you were a parent, would you let your child paint things on their wall? Why or why not?

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The Last Lecture: Week 4

Read Ch 6: Getting to Zero G

Read Ch 7: I Never Made It to the NFL

What barriers did Randy come up against in his effort to achieve his “floating” goal? What does Randy mean by “Have something to bring to the table, because that will make you more welcome.”? What skills do you bring to the table?

“It [football] helped make me who I am today.” (page 35) – What is the “it” in your life. Describe your “IT.”

A. What is the history of “it”? How long has “it” been in your life? How was “it” introduced?

B. Describe your commitment to “it”? How does “it” impact your life?

C. What are the sacrifices you have made for “it”? What rewards have you received from “it”?

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Do you agree with Randy when he says “kids today are so coddled”? Explain why or why not?

Explain the two kinds of head fakes. (p. 39) Describe a time that you have used a head fake to influence others.

“Giving kids self-esteem. It’s not something you can *give*. It’s something they have to build. .. He knew there was only one way to teach kids how to develop it: You give them something they can’t do, they work hard until they find they can do it, and you just keep repeating the process... He made me realize that if I work hard enough, there will be things I can do tomorrow that I can’t do today.” (page 37) **Describe something in your life that raised your self-esteem because you could not do it, but with hard work you accomplished it.**

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The Last Lecture: Week 5

Read Ch 8: You'll Find Me Under "V"

Read Ch 9: A Skill Set Called Leadership

According to the author, why was Captain Kirk the leader of the *Enterprise*?

Why does the author think that Shatner asking questions was heroic?

List 10 skills you possess that could be used in a leadership position. Explain a time that you used one of those skills in a leadership role?

List 3 skills that you would like to acquire to help you move into a leadership mindset. Brainstorm 2 ideas of how you could acquire or gain those leadership skills?

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The Last Lecture: Week 6

Read Ch 10: Winning Big

Read Ch 11: The Happiest Place on Earth

“Tenacity is a virtue, but it’s not always crucial for everyone to observe how hard you work at something.” In your own words, explain what the author means by this statement. What is tenacity? Give an example of how you are tenacious. How could you use this concept in your own life?

In your own words, explain Randy’s theory about brick walls? Describe a brick wall you encountered and how you overcame it.

How did Randy achieve his dream of working for Disney Imagineering?

What does Randy mean by “it’s easy to look smart when you’re parroting smart people”? (p. 53) How could you use the concept of parroting to further yourself in life?

Explain the difference between the responses of the two dean’s when Randy asked for the sabbatical?

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The Last Lecture: Week 7

Read Ch 12: The Park Is Open Until 8 p.m.

Read Ch 13: The Man in the Convertible

Read Ch 14: The Dutch Uncle

What is Randy's response to the news he receives in Chapter 12? How do you think you would react to similar news? What is his plan for the rest of his life?

"Wow, this is the epitome of a person appreciating this day and this moment." (page 64) Identify a person who you know who "appreciates" life the most.

What does the author mean by "I am still fully engaged."? How do you engage in your life and goals on a daily basis? How are you engaging even when you are in an "unguarded moment"? (p. 65)

What negative traits/flaws does Randy identify in himself? (p. 67)

Like many people, I had strengths that were also flaws." (page 67) Do a little self-reflection and evaluate yourself analyzing a strength that also might be considered a weakness. This is a great question to answer well. A common interview question is what is your greatest weakness?

Explain the concept of "a Dutch uncle". Who do you have in your life that can help you "recalibrate yourself"?

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The Last Lecture: Week 8

Read Ch 15: Pouring Soda in the Backseat

Read Ch 16: Romancing the Brick Wall

Read Ch 17: Not All Fairy Tales End Smoothly

Read Ch 18: Lucy, I'm Home

What message was Randy sending to his niece and nephew by pouring the soda in the backseat? How did he make simple moments magical for the kids?

How does Randy's concept of "brick walls" change when he is discussing his wife? What are some potential brick walls in your future? What skills do you need to possess to overcome those brick walls?

What was Randy's reaction to the fiasco after his wedding? How did his reaction play a role in his memory of the event?

"Not everything needs to be fixed" (p. 87) Have you ever tried to fix something in your life that didn't need to be fixed? What was the outcome? Would you try to fix it again?

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The Last Lecture: Week 9

Read Ch 19: A New Year's Story

Read Ch 20: In Fifty Years, It Never Came Up

Read Ch 21: Jai

What role do you plan in your destiny/future? How did Randy's reaction & attitude to the situation with his brand new baby affect the outcome of the situation? How can your reaction to life events change your destiny?

What did Randy learn about humility once his father passed away?

What did Jai do to help her get through the little issues in their relationship once Randy was sick?

What lessons have Jai and Randy learned from their journey (p. 102)

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The Last Lecture: Week 10

Read Ch 22: The Truth Can Set You Free

Read Ch 23: I'm on My Honeymoon But If You Need Me...

Read Ch 24: A Recovering Jerk

What happened that made Randy "smile like a beauty queen"? Describe a time that made you smile like that?

What are the seven things Randy knows about time? Which one can you relate to the most? (p. 108)

"The number one goal of teachers should be to help students learn how to learn. I always saw value in that, sure. But in my mind, a better number one goal was this: I wanted to help students learn how to judge themselves... educators best serve students by helping them be more self-reflective." (page 112) Reflect on yourself.

Why is it difficult to listen to feedback? How do you handle feedback? How can you handle feedback differently in the future?

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The Last Lecture: Week 11

Read Ch 25: Training a Jedi

Read Ch 26: They Just Blew Me Away

Read Ch 27: The Promised Land

Explain what Randy meant by “Smart isn’t enough”? p. 118)

How did Randy enable the dreams of his student Tommy?

How did changing the expectations that Randy set for his students affect the results of their learning?

What are the two ways that you can enable the dreams of others? How did enabling the dreams of others affect Randy? What could you do to enable the dreams of others?

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The Last Lecture Week 12:

Ch 28: Dream Big

Ch 29: Earnest Is Better Than Hip

Ch 30: Raising the White Flag

Ch 31: Let's Make a Deal

"I'm a scientist who sees inspiration as that ultimate tool for doing good.... When you're putting people on the moon, you're inspiring all of us to achieve the maximum human potential, which is how the greatest problems will be solved."
(page 132-133) What inspires you? What is your inspiration?

What is your biggest dream?

According to the author, what is the difference between earnest and hip?

Describe a time when you had to surrender like Randolph. Was it the right thing to do? Explain.

How did making a deal with his mom help the situation at the dinner table?

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The Last Lecture Week 13:

Read Ch 32: Don't Complain, Just Work Harder

Read Ch 33: Treat the Disease, Not the Symptom

Read Ch 34: Don't Obsess Over What People Think

"Too many people go through life complaining about there problems...Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals. And it won't make us happier."
(page 138-139) Evaluate your level of complaining. Do you complain often or do you look on the bright side? What do you complain about? Do you think if you complain less you would be happier?

What lesson can you learn from the girl Randy dated in chapter 33 "Treat the Disease, Not the Symptom"?

"If nobody ever worried about what was in other people's heads, we'd all be 33 percent more effective in our lives and our jobs." (page 141) Are you overly concerned with what others think?

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The Last Lecture Week 14

Read Ch 35: Start By Sitting Together

Read Ch 36: Look for the Best in Everybody

Read Ch 37: Watch What They Do, Not What They Say

“Being able to work well in a group is a vital and necessary skill in both the work world and in families. As a way to teach this, I’d always put my students into teams to work on projects.” (page 142) How well do you work with others? Do you enjoy group work? Why or why not?

What are the seven tips Randy gives for working in groups? Which one do you identify with the most? Why?

In your own words, explain what Randy means by “you haven’t given people enough time to show their best”? (p. 145)

What advice does Randy have for his daughter about relationships? Is this good advice? Explain why or why not. (p. 146)

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The Last Lecture Week 15

Read Ch 38: If at First You Don't Succeed...

Read Ch 39: Be the First Penguin

Read Ch 40: Get People's Attention

Read Ch 41: The Lost Art of Thank-You Notes

Which cliché do you identify with most? Explain what it means and why you identify with it. (p. 146-147)

"Experience is what you get when you don't get what you wanted. And experience is often the most valuable thing you have to offer." (page 149) Describe an experience where you gained experience. Be detailed in your narrative. What was the event and the lesson that was learned?

"Because hand-written notes have gotten so rare, they will remember you... My advice was more about helping them recognize that there are respectful, considerate things that can be done in life that will be appreciated by the recipient, and that only good things can result." (page 152) We have completed many of these types of activities so far. Describe the process and reaction.

On the back, write a sample thank-you note.

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The Last Lecture Week 16

Read Ch 42: Loyalty is a Two-Way Street

Read Ch 43: The Friday Night Solution

Read Ch 44: Show Gratitude

Read Ch 45: Send Out Thin Mints

What are you loyal to in your life? How is that loyalty a two-way street for you?

What is Randy's Friday Night solution? (p. 156) What do you work hard at in your life? What is the result of hard work?

Brainstorm 3 ways that you could show gratitude by paying it forward to people that you appreciate in your life.

How did the Thin Mint reward help Randy?

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The Last Lecture Week 17

Read Ch 46: All You Have Is What You Bring With You

Read Ch 47: A Bad Apology is Worse Than No Apology

Read Ch 48: Tell the Truth

Explain "The Eaten By Wolves Factor"? (p. 160)

Why does Randy believe that a bad apology is worse than no apology? Do you agree? Why or why not?

What are the three parts of a proper apology? Write a sample apology below.

Why does Randy feel that no one gets away with lying?

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The Last Lecture Week 18

Read Ch 49: Get in Touch with Your Crayon Box

Read Ch 50: The 100,000 Salt and pepper Shaker

Read Ch 51: No Job Is Beneath You

Why does Randy love crayons?

Explain how the salt and pepper shaker incident produced \$100,000 for Disney?

What does Randy mean by “there is more than one way to measure profits and losses”? (p. 168)

There is No Job Beneath You – “There is a growing sense of entitlement among young people today.” (page 168) He is calling you out? Is he right?

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The Last Lecture Week 19

Read Ch 52: Know Where You Are

Read Ch 53: Never Give UP

Read Ch 54: Be a Communitarian

Read Ch 55: All You Have to Do is Ask

“There are a few key moments in anyone’s life.” (page 173) Select a few and describe the moment and the significance in your life.

“All of us have a responsibility to the community...When we’re connected to others, we become better people.” (page 175 – 176) Comment on this quote and apply it to your personal experiences with community service.

“Ask those questions” (p. 179) what benefit does asking questions have? Explain a time that you asked a question and were surprised by the answer/response.

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The Last Lecture Week 20

Read Ch 56: Make a Decision: Tigger or Eeyore

Read Ch 57: A Way to Understand Optimism

Read Ch 58: The Input of Others

Are you a Tigger or an Eeyore? What are the benefits of being a Tigger?

Optimism enables you to do tangible things to improve your physical state.” (p. 183)

Are you an optimistic or a pessimistic person? What affect does being an optimistic person have on Randy’s life?

After the lecture, Randy received a lot of advice from other people. Which piece of advice most resonates with you?

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The Last Lecture Week 21

Read Ch 59: Dreams for My Children

Read Ch 60: Jai and Me

Read Ch 61: The Dreams Will Come to You

As you reflect on the information in this book, write 10 things that you have learned or found influential as you read this book.

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.