

## Dare To Dream!: 25 Extraordinary Lives

By Sandra McLeod Humphrey

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### **Dare To Dream!: 25 Extraordinary Lives** By Sandra McLeod Humphrey

Magical heroes like Harry Potter, Spiderman, or Catwoman provide plenty of entertainment for kids, but in real life heroes are made of sterner stuff than celluloid fantasies. In this inspiring collection of biographies—covering historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln and Helen Keller as well as contemporary figures such as Toni Morrison and Michael Jordan—critically acclaimed writer and psychologist Sandra McLeod Humphrey teaches young people that heroes were once ordinary people whose strength of character helped them to achieve extraordinary things. Starting with only their dreams, they worked hard and overcame obstacles to make their dreams come true. Some overcame physical handicaps, others psychological barriers like extreme shyness or feelings of inferiority; some faced racial discrimination or educational disadvantage, others financial burdens. In spite of these frustrations and discouragements, all of these people discovered in themselves the patience, perseverance, and determination to pursue their dreams beyond every obstacle.

The message is clear: No matter who you are or where you come from, you too can accomplish extraordinary things, as long as you dare to dream and never, never, never give up!

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7—A collection of biographical sketches of famous 20th-century individuals, from Albert Einstein to Sammy Sosa. Although the group is eclectic, the individuals all have one thing in common: they became successful in the face of adversity and therefore are great candidates to become heroes for today's youth. In approximately four pages, Humphrey discusses each subject's childhood, education, and family life. Then the individual's adult life is discussed, as well as how that person's success may be attributed to hard work and courage. Each sketch ends with a quote from the subject. This book is good for reluctant readers as each biography can be read independently. However, information is brief, and major sections of each individual's life are omitted; e.g., Abraham Lincoln's entry jumps from his being elected to Congress to becoming President of the United States. Whether this title can inspire children to be courageous is uncertain, but it can introduce them to some very interesting people.—*Lori Matthews, Loyola School, New York City*  
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-7. "They all had courage . . . they all had obstacles to overcome." Following a brief, inspirational introduction, the author presents 25 biographical sketches about individuals who made their dreams come true. Each four-page profile comprises one section on childhood, one on the hero's adult life, and a small black-and-white photo. The appeal is in the astonishing facts; the clear, direct style; and the diversity of individuals across history, race, class, and profession, including famous political leaders (Lincoln, King, and Eleanor Roosevelt) as well as athletes, artists, scientists, preachers, and writers. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, NBA star Michael Jordan, and Heather Whitestone, profoundly deaf, who was crowned Miss America in 1995, are among the subjects. Forget documentation. Other than a lengthy bibliography, there are no sources, even for direct quotes. *Hazel Rochman*  
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Review

"We encourage every young reader of this book to do both. By believing in yourself and reaching for the stars, not only will you achieve your goals, you will become exactly who you want to be--and someone who deserves and receives the respect of family, friends, and peers."

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**William Barnett:**

Dare To Dream!: 25 Extraordinary Lives can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Dare To Dream!: 25 Extraordinary Lives although doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

**Paula Cofield:**

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**Laura Grier:**

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