October Sky & the High Five Principles

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| Follow your heart | Throughout the movie Homer’s father constantly attempts to crush his dreams and prevent him from building rockets. Homer also is pressured to work as a miner by many people in the town and is told to stop working on the rocket. However he keeps working hard to achieve his dream. |
| Focus on the journey | Homer is entirely focused on the purpose of building rockets. Homer is constantly told by his father to work in mines and to abandon his hopes however Homer keeps doing it because that is his dream. |
| Access your allies | Homer worked with his friends or “allies” to build working rockets. Homer worked with Quentin who was very knowledgeable about chemistry and the science of rocket building. Homer also gets help from a worker who works in a machine shop and a high school science teacher. |
| Learning is ongoing | Homer and his friends have to constantly change their designs for the rocket and learn from their mistakes. They have to constantly learn how to optimize and improve the rockets to make it fly better. Another example is that Leon Bolden is taught about rocketry while the kids are taught about welding. |
| Change is constant | When they are building the rockets there would often be problems in the design and sometimes would explode. So Homer and his friends had to constantly be changing designs to work around these problems. Also at the end of the movie Homer has to drop out of high school because his father is injured. |

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

“There may be too little support of high-level technical innovation in America today, but there are some

truly amazing young scientists coming out of our best schools, and these inventors prove it.”

Does this apply in Canada as well? How could you be supported as an amazing young scientist?

This quote does not apply to the same measure as in Canada than the United States. In Canada high school students have access to many STEM programs and courses to improve our knowledge in these fields. If a student wishes to learn more about science in our school we are lucky to have the SciTech program which allows students with interests in that field to pursue it and access more advanced courses. We also have access to advanced placement exams which can test our knowledge and push us to expand our knowledge in specific subjects. However there is still an issue, a lot of science courses deal with a lot of theory and course work. Since modern students are under such a high load of work we have very few opportunities to apply our knowledge, in the movie October Sky they build rockets and use that as a form of learning however students today cannot do that simply because we have no time. However in Canada we have a lot more opportunities now than they do currently in the United States for STEM education.