I found The Last Lecture to be very inspiring and uplifting. It was cool to see Randy Pausch, who had just months to live, have such an optimistic attitude. I love how he took all of his childhood goals and discussed how, in unique ways, he accomplished all of them by learning from all of them. Although I couldn’t entirely relate to his interests, I found myself relating to his passion for those interests. Storytelling is something that I thoroughly enjoy doing. So far this semester, I’ve enjoyed the artistic expression and freedom that I’ve experienced taking my two classes that revolve around telling stories (Screenwriting and Intro to Fiction). Randy Pausch, similarly, enjoyed the artistic expression and freedom that went into creating virtual worlds and experiences.

The “brick wall” metaphor that Pausch used when he wrote on one of his slides that “Brick walls are there for a reason: they let us prove how badly we want things,” really resonated with me. My current aspiration is to be a filmmaker, and from the little that I’ve heard, there are a lot of “brick walls” in the film industry. The “brick wall” motto will certainly be something that I keep in mind moving forward, and when I do eventually hit a “brick wall” on my path to becoming a filmmaker, I’m sure I will think back to what Pausch said.

Another piece of advice Pausch gave that I found pretty powerful was what he said about people and how sometimes you have to be patient with them in order to see their good side. It’s easy to jump to conclusions about people based on one interaction or one isolated experience, but sometimes in order to develop a healthy working relationship, we have to give them time. And, who knows, maybe one day that working relationship could evolve into a friendship, but you’ll never know unless you give that person a chance.

Lastly, I really enjoyed what Pausch said about remembering to have fun. I think we’ve all struggled with this at times in our lives when we find ourselves having to do something, whether it be an obligation or some kind of work or school assignment, and we choose to approach it with a negative attitude. One thing that I’m going to make an effort of doing moving forward is being more positive about the occasional un-fun things that I have to do in my life. Sometimes we have to do things we don’t want to do, and we have to prioritize certain things we don’t want to do over certain things we would rather do. But what I took away from just watching Pausch during his lecture is that your attitude can go a long way in influencing your experience and your perspective.