

When you think of a highly recognizable voice, what voice do you typically think of? Most people would probably mention James Earl Jones a.k.a the voice of Darth Vader. His voice is one of the most recognized all over the world. Not only because of how deep of a voice it is, but also because of the commanding nature and the theatrical tone that he controls so effortlessly.

Did you know James Earl Jones was practically a mute until he was in high school and barely ever spoke? He was driven to this because he had a terrible stutter and would be teased about it relentlessly as a child. It wasn't until he was in high school and found an interest in poetry before he was able to start speaking around anyone.

His teacher saw one of his poems and told him that it was too good to be written by him. So in order to prove that James had written the poem, he made James recite the poem in front of the class by memory. He did so, and did it flawlessly without a stutter. So after that, the teacher made him recite all of his poems by memory to help him get over his stutter.

After all of this happened, he got into acting and became the famous actor that he is today. This success is interesting to me because it was basically an accidental event. If the teacher had never challenged James Earl Jones, then he may never have broken his stutter and may never have spoken to anyone in order to get into acting to begin with. Sometimes being successful isn't by sheer will or hunger, but it can also be simply by chance and the ability to recognize and seize an opportunity.

References:

James Earl Jones. (n.d.). Retrieved January 17, 2016, from <http://www.biography.com/people/james-earl-jones-9357354>