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Creative Coding I

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**Randy Pausch - Last Lecture: Achieving your childhood dreams**

Randy Pausch’s - Last Lecture: Achieving Your Childhood Dreams is deeply moving, especially knowing it was given while he was battling terminal cancer. What affected me the most was how optimistic he was and how he embraced life, even in the face of death. He brought up how only you can choose to be a Tigger or an Eeyore, I agree with that. He turned what could have been a tragic farewell into an inspiring/motivating speech of his dreams, lessons, and gratitude. One of the parts that stuck with me the most was when he said that “brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something.” It's a powerful reminder that challenges are not there to stop us but to test our determination.

I connected with Pausch's message about the importance of enabling the dreams of others. In his lecture, he often highlighted the significance of mentorship and helping those around you reach their full potential. Not just in my academic career but in my life in general, I’ve been fortunate to have great mentors who’ve guided, shown, and taught me things. I like to think that I repay their kindness to others every day and every chance I get. It made me realize that life isn’t just about achieving personal goals but also about uplifting others along the way.

Another part that stood out was his message about not losing the childlike sense of wonder within yourself. A lot of things can make you lose sight of things that simply enjoy, especially as a kid. Life and school are stressful but it’s good to be able to hold onto things you have had such passion for since a young age. Pausch reminded us to hold onto that excitement and keep that love for things you enjoy alive even through tough/stressful times.

Overall, I will say that Pausch’s lecture was not only just about achieving your dreams, but it was about living with a purpose and making the absolute most of your time. To appreciate the little things. Choose and spend your days/time wisely. Stay determined. Treat others the way you’d want to be treated. Find and embrace the inner/younger you and follow your dreams. I appreciated this lecture from him, it really made me see things in a different light.