

## The Last Lecture Reflections

I'm going to be honest. When I first saw I had to watch an hour and 15 minute long lecture in which I had to write a paper for, I wasn't excited. I was dreading watching this video and having to write this paper. I kept thinking "So dumb. There's so much I have to do. I don't want to do this." And now I'm just thinking, "Wow, how dumb of me to think that." I think there was something almost beautiful about this lecture to me. It made me emotional and it really spoke to me.

For context, I am going through a hard time with the whole "what do I wanna do with my life" thing, and the "I want to give up on my childhood career" feeling. I want to work in film. It's what I've wanted to do since I was 13. At first I wanted to be a film editor and then I started to find passion in directing, so that became my dream. My childhood dream feels like it has been falling apart over the last year and a half. I've started to feel hopeless about achieving this dream. As if there's an unbeatable "brick wall" in front of me and ropes around my feet that are stopping me from achieving my dreams. So with that in mind let's get into my reflection.

I'm going to start with the end because that's what spoke to me most. His advice of "don't lose your childlike wonder" and "don't bail" sent a chill through me. It's like he was speaking directly to me, even though I know that's not possible. I've lost my childlike wonder, and want so desperately to get it back. That piece of advice was just another reminder to not let the dream in me die. Also his advice to have fun stuck out to me. "Have fun" is advice I've been hearing a lot lately along with "do things I enjoy," especially in the context of school. So, hearing it again from a dying man that has achieved his childhood dreams, is cementing the advice. His advice makes me feel inspired to take back my life and put it back on track.

The whole context of his cancer made this very touching and beautiful to me. Especially when he sang happy birthday to his wife, and said that the second head fake of his lecture was that it's for his kids. I also found it interesting that his cancer was a driving force in the lecture, but it didn't necessarily play a big role in most of the lecture. It was weaved in and out throughout the lecture instead of being a "I'm going to die soon" feeling for every topic. And of course I have to talk about his head fake full circle moment. He told us exactly what the point of his lecture was by talking about and explaining head fakes. "It's not about achieving your dreams, it's about how to live your life." The classic technique of introducing your point without giving it away and then circling back to it at the end, was done so remarkably well by him. I could tell that he was a well seasoned professor.

I think not only was this an incredibly well done lecture by a good professor, but a beautiful message for life. Being proud to tell your stories and being happy even in the months of your coming death, is an uplifting way to live life. I'm wildly inspired and I'm thankful to see this lecture at this point in my life.