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## Last Lecture Thoughts, Homework 2

Randy Pausch's Last Lecture is a powerful testament to living with purpose, even in the face of death. With a terminal cancer diagnosis on the horizon, Pausch's words ring true with authenticity, humor, and a selfless spirit that has a long-lasting impact. What moved me the most was his selflessness, as evidenced by the stories he told about his father's quiet generosity, his heartfelt gesture of inviting his wife on stage to sing "Happy Birthday," and his dedication of the lecture to his children. These scenes show a man who, despite his own impending death, prioritized the happiness and legacy of those he loved. His father's example of understated courage and humility, such as being a highly decorated war hero, highlights a life of service that Pausch clearly exemplified. The image of him publicly celebrating his wife, transforming a personal milestone into a shared moment of joy, was deeply moving, as was his final promise to his children, ensuring they had a tangible piece of his love and wisdom.

While we don't have much in common in terms of background or experiences, I strongly identify with Pausch's humanity. His terminal diagnosis forced him to face mortality head on, sparking reflection on what truly matters in life. This speaks to me because it prompts reflection on my own priorities and legacy. Pausch's ability to face death with grace, focusing on enabling others' dreams rather than dwelling on his own, inspires me to consider how I can live more fully in the present while also leaving a positive impact on those around me. Ultimately Pausch's lecture serves as a reminder that the value of life is determined not by its length, but by the depth of our connections and the impact we choose to make.