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The biggest thing that stood out to me was how Randy Pausch referred to himself and others when they were children. His statements don't feel nostalgic but they also don't disconnect the realm of childhood behavior from adult responsibilities and aspirations. I think that the key component that Pausch wants to make clear is that he still refers to his childhood self as "him" and suggests that the audience should do the same. Not just himself physically, but as the same person who shares the same aspirations and motivations as the person that gives the lecture. His encouragement towards not forgetting your childhood dreams is potent when he chooses not to isolate those childhood aspirations simply because he was an adolescent.

This concept was not the only thing Pausch addressed in his speech at CMU, but it's something that resonated with me a lot now, as a younger man trying to decide what to pursue in school, whether my adolescent pursuit of STEM or my childhood aspirations of sound design and music. Choosing to follow my aspirations in sound over stem was a difficult decision against family as well as the parts of me that said I might be better paid or more successful as a biologist, choosing sound solely because I enjoy it that much and I believe I can be successful with it. Randy Pausch resonated a lot with me in that decision specifically.