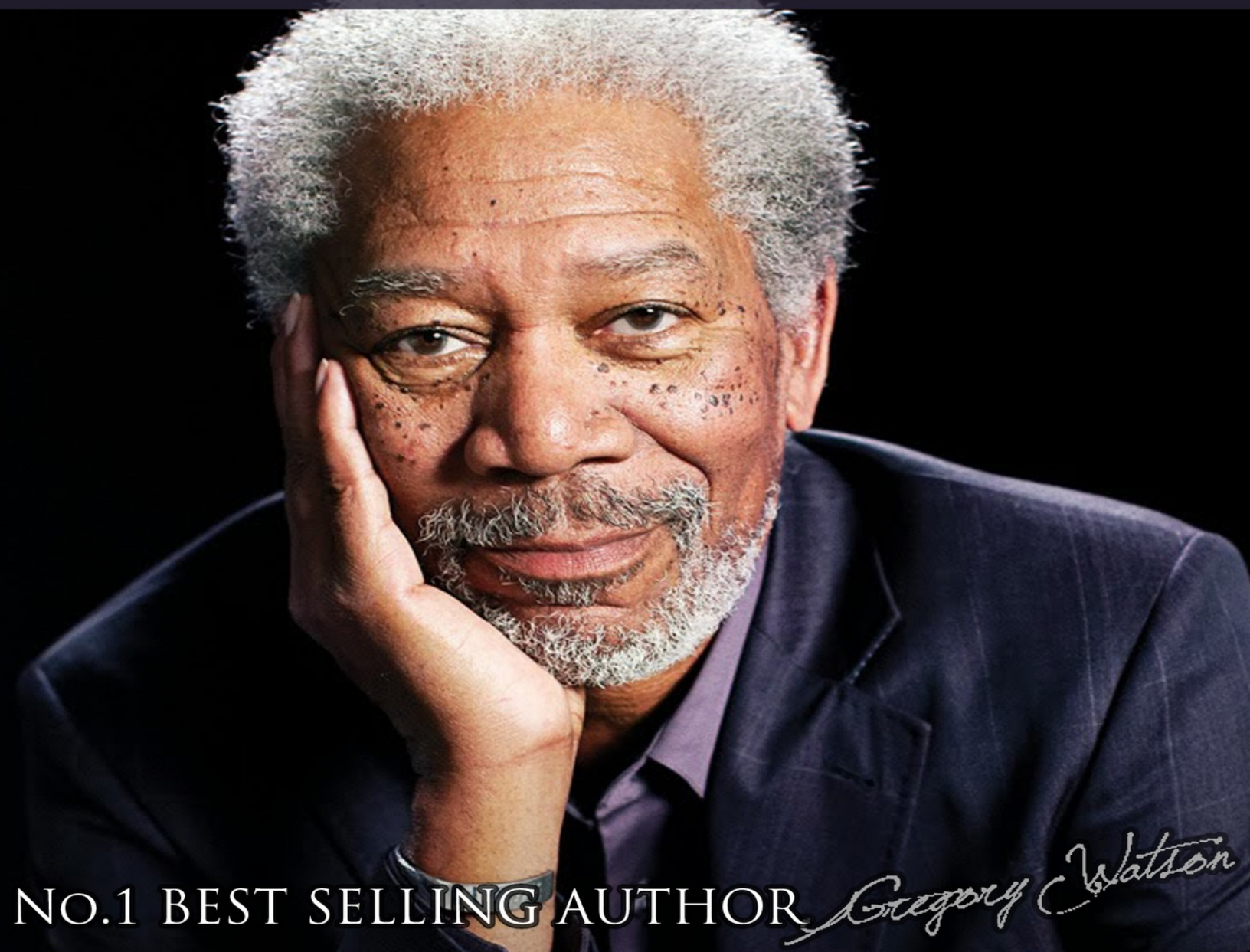


THE INSPIRATIONAL LIFE STORY OF

MORGAN FREEMAN

THE UNIQUE VOICE THAT GETS EVERYONE LISTENING



NO.1 BEST SELLING AUTHOR *Gregory Watson*

The Inspirational Life Story of Morgan Freeman

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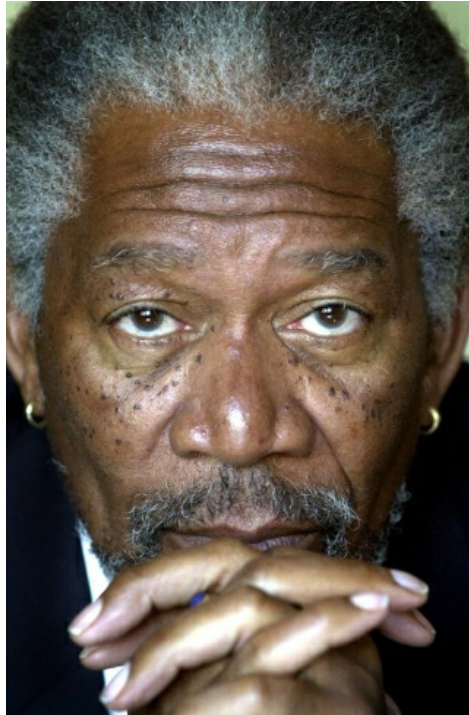


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Introduction

Once Morgan Freeman opens his mouth, you easily know that it's him. His one-of-a-kind voice somehow works as a lullaby that can put you to sleep, but it can also make you pay attention to what he is saying.

You know him by name and by face, but what else do you know about Morgan Freeman? Are you aware that you can learn a lot of life lessons and success stories based on his life alone?

The following pages will be full of trivia and unknown facts about Morgan Freeman. This is your chance to know what he has gone through. Perhaps you'll see that he really is no different from you and me.

If you're a Morgan Freeman fan, this book will also take you down memory lane as this tackles a few of the movies that Morgan Freeman did in the past.

The Shawshank Redemption. Invictus. Driving Miss Daisy. Those movies for sure touched your soul. Haven't watched those movies yet? Let this convince you why you should do so.

Morgan Freeman is an inspiration. He's only human, but his personality is quite exceptional. After all, who else can convincingly play God and get away with it?



Chapter 1 — Who is Morgan Freeman?

"I've got a lot of life left in me and I want to live it doing things I like to do."

Morgan Freeman is an American narrator, actor, and film director. He has received various Academy Award nominations for his exceptional performances in movies such as *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Street Smart*, and *Invictus*. He even won in 2005 for the Clint Eastwood-directed movie *Million Dollar Baby*. He also won a Screen Actors Guild Award and a Golden Globe Award.

Freeman has appeared in many other box office hits such as *Se7en*, *The Sum of All Fears*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, *Deep Impact*, and *Bruce Almighty*.

Morgan Freeman is very well-known for his distinctively smooth and deep voice. He even did the narration for the docufilm *March of the Penguins* and the 2005 remake of the classic sci-fi film *War of the Worlds*.

With a commanding voice and a composed demeanor, this very famous American actor has become one of the most esteemed figures in the entertainment industry.

A Short Biography

Morgan Freeman was born in Memphis, Tennessee. After serving with the Air Force for five years, he went to Los Angeles City College to study acting.

He is a true Renaissance man. — He has accomplished it all. He has been on



Broadway, children's television, soap operas and lastly, major roles in big movies. His Broadway debut was made opposite Pearl

Bailey in 1968's *Hello Dolly*, and afterwards he gained wide exposure as a children's show cast member as *The Electric Company*'s Easy Reader. At 12, he discovered he was born to make believe.

He learned tap, ballet, and jazz—he could do all the moves. He also took singing lessons. He said that since he can do it all, he IS show business.

Freeman had his big break in big-budget films with Brubaker during the '80s which starred Robert Redford. He was also nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award for the 1989 movie *Driving Miss Daisy*. He may not have won the statuette, but he won a Golden Globe award for his portrayal in the movie.

He also obtained from the Berlin International Film Festival a Silver Berlin Bear, and from the National Board of Review and an Image Award. Freeman says he doesn't see acting as a creative endeavor. He believes actors are more like craftsmen as people don't build from nothing.

Freeman accepted Golden Globe and Oscar nominations for his portrayal as Red in the 1994 movie *The Shawshank Redemption*. He won a Best Actor for the Empire Awards for the 1995 movie *Se7en*, and he was given an Outstanding Achievement in Acting award in 2000 at the Hollywood Film Festival.

Another award, the Joseph Plateau Life Achievement Award, was given to him by the Flanders International Film Festival. From the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, he accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001, and he got his very much deserved star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on March 18, 2003.

Morgan Freeman still carries on working nonstop, grabbing both awards and critical acclaim for almost every presentation.

He obtained his fourth Oscar nomination for the 2004 movie *Million Dollar*

Baby, and this was his first Oscar win. He was given a fifth Oscar nomination in 2010 for his portrayal of then-South African President Nelson Mandela in the 2009 movie *Invictus*.

Morgan Freeman has gone on to take pleasure in an exceptionally triumphant film career. One of his recent roles is as Lucius Fox in the 2012 movie *The Dark Knight Rises*, which is the last installment of the Christopher Nolan-directed Batman trilogy.

With regard to his personal life, Morgan Freeman has two children from his first marriage and another two from his second marriage.

Tidbits about Morgan Freeman

Here are some little facts you may not know about Morgan Freeman:

- They may have almost the same name, but he's not actually related to the director named *Morgan J. Freeman*.
- He speaks French fluently.
- He is left-handed.
- He earned his private pilot's license at the age of 65.
- He likes sailing and riding horses. In fact, he owns five horses and he has a boat berthed in the Caribbean.
- He also rejected a partial scholarship from Jackson State University in order to serve in the US Air Force.
- He played opposite a character named Jack Ryan—twice. First was in the 2002 movie *The Sum of All Fears* (based on the novel of the same name by Tom Clancy) and in the 2004 movie *The Big Bounce* (a comedy film, obviously not based on something written by Tom Clancy).
- He's not only talented; he's also educated as he received his Doctor of Arts and Letters from Delta State University in 2006.
- In September 2006, he was named one of America's "Most Trusted Celebrities" by Forbes Magazine.

Fun Facts

Here are other facts about the one and only Morgan Freeman:

- Morgan Freeman has played the similar characters at least twice in three independent film franchises. First was his role as Dr. Alex Cross in the movies *Along Came a Spider* and *Kiss the Girls*. Second was his role as God in the movies *Bruce Almighty* and *Evan Almighty*. The third role was as Lucius Fox in *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*.
- To Morgan Freeman, the movies *Glory*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Unforgiven* were the best movies he has performed in.
- He seems to be too affiliated with boxing. In three films that he has starred in—*Kiss the Girls*, *The Power of One*, and *Million Dollar Baby*—Morgan Freeman has portrayed a boxing trainer, albeit a different individual each time.
- Aside from acting, the actor also lent his voice to narrate two influential documentary movies, both of which proceeded to win Academy Awards. Those two documentaries are *March of the Penguins* and *The Long Way Home*.

A lot know Morgan Freeman for his voice and portrayals but he also works behind the scenes for advocacies that aim to “change the world.” This is something you don’t hear done by celebrities too often.

Morgan Freeman has achieved so much, and he shows no sign of stopping yet. Why should he, especially if what he’s doing benefits more people in the process?

Chapter 2 — Roles that Made Morgan Freeman Famous

“Is there a movie I think I should have won the Oscar for? Yeah. All of them.”



Looking back on all the film masterpieces that Morgan Freeman has starred in during his career will start to be even more impressive

once you realize that all of his most exceptional work was achieved only after he turned 50.

He may have broken through as a scary pimp in the 1987 movie *Street Smart*, a role for which he earned his first Oscar nomination, but Morgan Freeman has become renowned for infusing scores of characters with his trademark sense of silent dignity.

His deep voice alone is the reassuring sound of mild authority which allowed him to portray various characters such as an embattled American President, Nelson Mandela, Batman’s confidante Lucius Fox, and even God.

Here are some of the most famous roles that Morgan Freeman played:

Driving Miss Daisy (1989)

This 1989 film adaptation was from Alfred Uhry’s play of the same name. *Driving Miss Daisy* featured Morgan Freeman playing the role of Hoke Colburn who was employed as a driver of a rich, old, Jewish woman named – you guessed it – Daisy. The movie was set during the 1950s, and this tells the story of their friendship that had spanned over twenty years.

The moving comedy won four Oscars that included Best Actress for Jessica Tandy and Best Picture. This movie raised Morgan’s status from simply being a supporting star to a lead actor in Hollywood.

Bruce Almighty (2003)

This movie is about a guy who always kept complaining to God about his life, and was given almighty powers to see how it is to take charge of the world.

Morgan Freeman was God in human form, and was quite effective in his role. Who else can play God that well? It seems that Morgan Freeman was tailor-fit for the role.

The movie encountered issues in Malaysia and Egypt, but the issues didn't stop the movie from being one of the highest-grossing movies in the US. It even had a sequel titled *Evan Almighty*.

Se7en (1995)

Se7en (or Seven) is a David Fincher movie that starred Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman. This gruesome dramatic crime thriller depicted the investigation into a sequence of ritualistic murders that were stirred by that which is referred to by the Catholic Church as the seven deadly sins.

Both Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman were applauded for their performance as police officers who chased a serial killer who picked his victims as well as their deaths. The movie earned rave reviews because of various factors: the great plot, the good acting, and the brilliant twist at the end.

Invictus (2009)

The movie might have struggled in the earnings department but it didn't stop Morgan Freeman from getting another Oscar nomination. Undoubtedly, Morgan Freeman playing Nelson Mandela is one of his best roles ever, but because not a lot have seen this, there's not much opportunity for Morgan Freeman to show his acting prowess.

Invictus is about Mandela who was in his first term as President of South Africa. Here, he tried to merge his post-Apartheid country through the sport of rugby. He thinks that a win will possibly unite the nation and inculcate in both blacks and non-blacks a collective sense of pride and patriotism. The movie is based on real events and is worthy to be watched.

Million Dollar Baby (2004)

Morgan Freeman is very much visible in this movie. It's his soothing and serene-sounding voice that conveys the narration through the movie, and this alone could merit the movie a spot on the list.

Freeman's role is that of Scrap, a retired boxer who lost one of his eyes in his last fight. He is now employed at the gym of his aged trainer Frankie (Clint Eastwood) and keeps an eye on Maggie (Hilary Swank) as she starts her career. Scrap offers Maggie various boxing tidbits as she tries hard to be a better boxer and catch Frankie's eye. Finally, in the last scenes of the movie, it's Freeman's gentle voice that carries the moving finish. This is indeed one of those must-see films.

The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Morgan Freeman was cast in this movie because of his demeanor, his authoritative presence, and his deep voice.

In this movie, Morgan Freeman plays the role of Red, who becomes friends with Tim Robbins' character over the years. A strong bond develops between the two of them. Freeman's lined, institutionalized character is perpetually changed after meeting Robbins and after realizing that acts of decency make life worth living.

Chapter 3 – The Road to Success

“Don't be different just for different's sake. If you see it differently, function that way. Follow your own muse, always.”



Morgan Freeman is one of the most talented actors of our time. Acting looks easy when he does it, but it

actually took several decades for him to have the chance at success. He may have known that he wished to become an actor since he first presented in a school play when he was nine, but he didn't actually secure his first major Hollywood role until after he turned 50.

Freeman is living proof that the big break won't always come to you when you want it. However, just continue to keep on perfecting your craft, as when it's your time, it will come to you. It is quite hard to visualize that Hollywood once lived without him.

The perseverance and knowledge that fueled Morgan Freeman's long travel to the silver screen can teach everyone how to persistently chase a dream until it comes true.

Here are some success secrets according to Morgan Freeman:

Success can be ever so sweet.

Life won't give you promises. He's happy to be someone desired and liked by many. He's experienced how it was not being liked by people, and success definitely feels so much better.

You don't have to be a prized celebrity like Morgan Freeman for you to appreciate the success you're currently getting. What's important is that you know how to appreciate what you have. Don't settle for what you have right now. Keep on going. There's always a bigger hurdle that you have to jump over. Keep the hunger alive to go farther in life.

Don't be beat by pressure.

Morgan Freeman wasn't really intimidated by major roles. He thinks he's better playing them. He doesn't feel pressured. In fact, he feels relieved during times like that. He thinks it's just natural, and that's what he was born to do.

If you feel pressure because of anything going on in your life, don't be overwhelmed by it. Think of it as a challenge that you have to overcome, a struggle that you simply have to pass. Enjoy the experience. You'll learn from it anyway.

Expect the unexpected.

He didn't expect he would reach the point where he is right now. What he simply wanted was to have a job that will put food on the table. Simply put, you won't know what's going to happen.

Life gives you blessings when you least expect it. Solutions to your problems will present themselves even during the most unexpected moments. Your future and your life are uncertain. If you keep on working for your dreams, who knows, your name could also be there up in lights and be famous worldwide as well.

Don't be contented with playing safe.

A lot of people don't find their true potential simply because they tend to keep it safe. They're contented to stay where they are; they're too frightened to challenge themselves because they don't know what awaits them.

"What if I fail? What if I risk everything, but things don't turn out how I dreamed it would be?"

You won't know until you try. Put yourself out there and be ready to be in make-or-break situations. It's only then when you give yourself a chance to grow.

Keep the dream alive.



Morgan Freeman always believes that you have to keep moving.

The moment you stop chasing your dreams is the moment you lose your grasp of what you wanted to have or become. When you stop chasing your goals, it's like waiting to die.

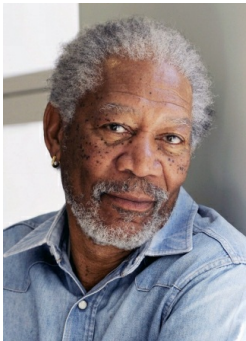
Even if things go wrong, never surrender. Don't give up and keep the fight alive. When the pressure is on, have the mind of a quarterback. You scramble away for now, but it's just because you see an open receiver.

Chapter 4 – An Inspiration to Many

“If you live a life of make-believe, your life isn't worth anything until you do something that does challenge your reality. And to me, sailing the open ocean is a real challenge, because it's life or death.”

Why wouldn't you want to have the desire to be Morgan Freeman? Aside from having one of the most familiar voices in the world, Freeman has turned out to be a cinematic icon who has played characters in some of the best movies of all time. Alas, Morgan Freeman is indeed one of a kind.

Various circumstances prove that Morgan Freeman can be an inspiration to many. Here are reasons why Morgan Freeman should be admired by most, if not all.



He's a great actor.

Morgan Freeman is undoubtedly one of the most significant and skilled actors in Hollywood. Throughout his memorable career, he has won various major acting awards which include a

Golden Globe Best Actor (Musical or Comedy) award for *Driving Miss Daisy* and a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for *Million Dollar Baby*.

His resume has other such classics as *Unforgiven*, *Bruce Almighty*, *Glory*, *Se7en*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and the *Batman* trilogy directed by Christopher Nolan.

He's a businessman.

Yes, he's 75 years old but contrary to what people might think, he still doesn't feel he needs to slow down and retire. Morgan Freeman is not an ordinary person, though.

Despite his age, Freeman remains a successful entrepreneur. His fine dining restaurant, Madidi, may have closed, but his other business venture, Ground

Zero, a blues club in Clarksdale, Mississippi, is still going strong.

He served his country well.

Morgan Freeman was no stranger to the wild blue yonder when his private pilot's license was handed to him at age 65. Decades prior to that, he had already served in the US Air Force.

A fighter pilot was what he initially wanted to become, but he was instead assigned radar technician and mechanic duties. Freeman nonetheless did his part to keep America out of harm's way. That's more than what others can say about those other "patriotic" flag-wavers who right now populate Hollywood.

He was able to beat alcoholism.

Morgan Freeman was in the past an alcoholic like his father. The wicked habit happened during his stint on *The Electric Company*, a children's educational show during the '70s.

It turns out that he hated being on the show, and alcohol gave him a momentary release. Thankfully though, he finally managed to get rid of the habit. Anybody who has successfully fought against alcoholism can attest that it's not an easy feat.

He overcame a tough childhood.

Morgan Freeman did not have a stress-free and fortunate life. It will get you thinking though on how he could have attained a lot in life. He had to prevail over a very tough childhood.

His alcoholic father died of cirrhosis. His paternal grandmother raised him. To add, when he was younger, his family was always moving which prevented him from having early friendships.

He's a philanthropist.

He's known for his selfless philanthropy. He has contributed to hurricane relief efforts, reinforced the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, and has been an advocate of the Campaign for Female Education.

These are just a few of the many worthy causes to which Morgan Freeman has given his share. If only all famous personalities could be so generous, the world would be a much better place.

He is an advocate of equal rights.

Morgan Freeman not only supports civil rights, but he also supports same-sex marriages. He may have received negative feedback due to his Black History Month criticism, but he actually states a fitting point about Black history being American history.

With regard to civil rights, Morgan Freeman has been in television commercials discussing gender equality. He has even assisted in raising funds for the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

Chapter 5 – His Quotes. Your Life.

“I wasn't actually sleeping. I'm a beta tester for Google Eyelids. I was merely updating my Facebook page.”



Aside from his classic roles in his movies, Morgan

Freeman's quotes can also guide you in your daily lives. Read his words, and you'll see how he can make you laugh, cry, and think.

“Acting means living; it's all I do and all I'm good at. If I weren't getting paid well, I would still be acting in a small troupe somewhere.”

Look at it this way: if you were not paid for what you are doing currently, would you still be doing it?

Success comes with hard work. Hard work comes with motivation. Motivation comes with inspiration out of doing something that you love. If you don't love what you do, it's hard to find success.

It's better to spend time doing things that you love. Time, money, and energy won't be wasted, and you'll even feel fulfilled.

“Literacy could be the ladder out of poverty.”

Morgan Freeman puts the emphasis here on education. You might have been born poor, but if you have education as your weapon, you could propel yourself out of poverty.

Maximize the time spent while in school. You only have to “suffer” for a few years, but the profits you get out of it are more than worth it.

“The best way to guarantee a loss is to quit.”

You lose by quitting. You always win by not giving up. Refuse to lose.

You’ve spent so much effort for you to give up now. Rise above the challenge; prove that you deserve the reward waiting for you.

“As you grow in this business, you learn how to do more with less.”

In life, sometimes you have to work with what you have. You have to be contented with your current possessions. If you want to have more, then you have to work hard for it. If you don’t have the means to achieve, then find ways to get what you want to have.

Just make sure though that you won’t be hurting anyone in the process. Success will be sweeter if it’s obtained with hard work and good, clean fun.

And yes, don’t forget to have fun along the way.



Conclusion

Morgan Freeman's life isn't all sunshine and roses. He encountered a lot of difficulties before he got to where he is right now. He had made more than a hundred movies, and most had stuck in his fans' minds.

He portrayed roles that made a lot of difference in people's lives. Roles that he played on the movies *Invictus*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Se7en*, and *Million Dollar Baby* will always be remembered by his followers. And who could forget him in *The Shawshank Redemption*? You never knew a story so simple can touch the hearts of many.

His words of wisdom inspire people – moviegoers and non-moviegoers alike. You don't have to watch his movies (although it's highly recommended that you do) to understand what he's trying to teach you. His words resonate and touch your soul. He encourages a lot of people to work hard. He wants everyone to be as successful as he is.

Weren't you inspired by all that you've read about Morgan Freeman? All his success was attained not until he reached 50 years old. So don't feel defeated. Perhaps it's just not your time to shine...yet.

The next time you hear his deep voice, you won't only see his appearance but you'll also remember all that he has done in his lifetime.

