

# Topic: Idealism

It is important for an individual to have a vision for his ideal life, that is, idealism, while recognizing the harsh reality in his life in order to pursue and achieve his personal happiness. Without the vision, the individual will lose the direction of his happiness, and consequently, will be unable to achieve it. Without recognizing the undesirable truth in real life, the individual will not overcome adversities in his pursuit of happiness, thus, the adversities will prevent him from getting personal well-being. In order to pursue one's idealism, realizing and overcoming the harsh reality is vital. The project reflects this idea with support from the poem "On the Value of Fantasies" by Elizabeth Brewster.

## Quotations

### ***"and live happily ever after."***

The poet first cites a teacher who disapproves her students because of their unrealistic fantasies of living happily. These fantasies are the visions for idealism of her students, the life that students want to have as they believe they will achieve their personal happiness. The students have idealism but the teacher criticizes them because she thinks idealism are just fantasies.

### ***"in which Linda becomes a widow at fifty."***

The teacher asks them to accept the harsh "truths" *only* by telling them they will become "a widow", "deserted" and "never married" instead of their ideal lives, in a game. And then, she asks her students how they will cope to these adversities. The students have no idea about and to react to the harsh reality as they consider the game only dumb.

### ***"one fantasy against the other"***

The poet, however, thinks the teacher's truths are also fantasies of an absolutely bitter life against her students' ideal lives, as the teacher does not think the ideal happiness can be achieved because of adversities in real life.

### ***"It's true, life is full of these dirty tricks."***

Brewster recognizes the hardships in life that tries to prevent one from attaining personal well-being.

### ***"but being prepared for the worst may make it happen."***

But the ideal life is important because it can happen if one prepares for the hardships one may face. Consequently, one will overcome the adversities and realize the dream ideal life. The idealism is important because one can only make the ideal life happen when one knows what is one's vision for the happy life. However, achieving happiness requires an individual to be prepared for the worst circumstances. To be prepared accordingly, it is significant to realize the real adversities out there. Both idealism and harsh truths of adversity are important in an individual's pursuit of personal well-being.

In my project, I made a video to demonstrate the ideas in the poem. I use symbols for dreams, ideal life and happiness at the beginning, e.g. space, moon and cloud in the sky. In the teacher's view, the sky is unreachable like the students' happy lives. She uses the harsh truths to pursue her students to lose their dreams as seen in the Reality section of the video. However, she ignores the importance of idealism when fighting adversities in the path to happiness. Climbing and surfing both present the journey working toward an ideal happy life where requires fighting against adversities. In the end, with direction from idealism and overcoming adversity, an individual will achieve his vision for a happy future.