

Success and failure

Read the following vignettes. Try and decide why the goal may be realistic – or not, why could the protagonist/hero feel they were successful and why not? What do you think – do they feel successful or not?

- a) Kate had been earning relatively poor grades in her secondary school. After GSCE she wants to go on to take A levels so she can **go to university**. Her GSCE did not turn out well, she barely passed. She thinks if she can persist she will be able succeed at A levels.

Is the goal realistic?.....

Why could Kate feel she was successful?

Why could Kate feel she failed?

What do you think, does Kate think of this as a SUCCESS or a FAILURE?.....

- b) Lou wants to **become a carpenter**. He often helps out in the workshop of his father's friend – who is a carpenter and is already quite able in handling the tools. He wants to make a spice-holding rack for his parents for Xmas. The carpenter is willing to give him the materials needed free of charge and let him use the tools he needs. It turned out very nice – even the burnishing. The carpenter praised him for the work – although Lou saw that one of the rungs was a bit crooked.

Is the goal realistic?.....

Why could Lou feel he was successful?

Why could Lou feel he failed?

What do you think, does Lou think of this as a SUCCESS or a FAILURE?.....

- c) Vilma was always interested in physics. Last summer electricians were working at the house next door and she saw how they worked. She become very interested and has decided that she too wants to **become an electrician**. She also saw that they have to chisel the wall for the cable to fit, so she decides to go to the gym twice a week to increase her strength. She was accepted to the training school and is enjoying it, although her enthusiasm is dampened by the fact that the lead-trainer does not approve of girls choosing such a physical job. Many of her acquaintances also tease her regularly.

Is the goal realistic?.....

Why could Vilma feel she was successful?

Why could Vilma feel she failed?

What do you think, does Vilma think of this as a SUCCESS or a FAILURE?.....

- d) Sam had always been an average student and wanted to **become a kindergarten** teacher. On the **aptitude test for PE he failed**, because his movements were not well coordinated. In spite of this he was given the option that he could re-apply in two months' time if he is really interested – and will be accepted if he passes his aptitude test.

Is the goal realistic?.....

Why could Sam feel he was successful?

Why could Sam feel he failed?

What do you think, does Sam think of this as a SUCCESS or a FAILURE?.....