

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

What It Takes to Be Great: Pre-Reading

Activity 1: Getting Ready to Read—Quickwrite 1

Describe something—a hobby, activity, academic skill—that you do pretty well and you feel good about doing. Please answer all three questions in your response.

What do you like about it? How long did it take you to get pretty good at doing it?
How did you get better at doing it?

Describe something—a hobby, activity, or academic skill—that you would like to be able to do better? Please answer both questions in your response.

Why would you like to do it better? How do you think you will get better at doing it?

Activity 2: Getting Ready to Read—Quickwrite 2

Your teacher will show you some *YouTube* video clips of people who are recognized as greats—among the best—in their particular fields. After watching these clips, respond to the following quickwrite prompts:

By whom are you most amazed in the clips you just saw? Why?

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List two or three people whom you consider to have achieved greatness in any field: music, dance, art, sports, science, business, academics, etc. and label what they do.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

For each person above, what do you think made them so good in their field? What may have led to their greatness?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Activity 3: Deciding What You Think

Below you will find a number of statements related to the topic of improving performance and achieving greatness. On a scale of 1 to 5, note the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement (1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree). Afterward, share your answers with a small group of classmates. Note: Please keep this and all following activities in a specific folder or in a separate section in your notebook. This will help you to have – in the same place – all the materials you will need to look back on to complete your final assignments.

Statement	What Do You Think on a Scale of 1 to 5? 1 = strongly disagree 5 = strongly agree
People are born great—you either got it or you don't.	
You can make yourself great if you put in many hours of practice.	
If you find your natural talent, you will be great from the first day and achieve fame and fortune.	
People usually do get better when beginning a particular activity but stop making improvements fairly soon after.	