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Nicholas Sparks Has Left His Mark

“After all, you don’t know how strong something is until you actually test it,” (Sparks 286). Nicholas Sparks has been using lessons like this that he has learned in life and transforming them into great themes in stories. He is able to do this because all signs point to him being fated to be doing what he is doing. Nicholas Sparks was destined to be a successful writer as evidenced when he failed to be happy without writing, obtained a clear understanding of writing styles, and learned to channel his emotions into writing.

One may assume that multiple failures could easily lead to the abandonment of a passion or hobby, however, Nicholas Sparks continued to endure the failures he encountered when he followed his destiny to be a writer. He simply would not be content with a life that did not involve writing. After moving to California with his wife, Sparks took different jobs to try to find something he was passionate about. Some of these jobs were occupations such as manufacturing orthopedic goods, pharmaceutical sales, and telemarketing (“Nicholas Sparks”). Sparks could not settle on a job because his desire to be a writer outweighed all the uncertainty that came with it. Even after he failed twice to get a novel published, Nicholas Sparks wrote a life advice book with a friend (“Nicholas Sparks”). This book called *Wokini: A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding* was his first time getting published. This once again displays Sparks’ persistent love for writing and his resistance to fall victim to the

disappointments of life without it. Sparks' discontentment with doing anything other than writing is prominent right after he went into pharmaceutical sales. Sparks decided to write three more books before giving up for good ("Nicholas Sparks"). By doing this, he has shown that his determination to be a writer did not waver after failure. He continued to do what he loved even if he was not making a substantial living out of it. Sparks relives his past troubles when he makes redemption after failure as a recurring theme in his books. For example, in *The Longest Ride* one of Sparks' characters had a passion for bullriding. After the character failed to be the champion, he came back the next year and won the whole competition. This reflects Nicholas Sparks' life because when he failed to be a writer, he kept trying to succeed and eventually did. Furthermore, Nicholas Sparks failed to be happy without writing because his pulls of failure were not strong enough to overcome his destiny of becoming a successful author.

Just as the average student must learn the steps of a task before they complete it, Nicholas Sparks learned the unique elements that make up different genres in order to write exceptional stories. In an interview with Carpenter, Sparks explains the genre of his stories declaring, "My genre is actually a love story. Those are essentially modern day Greek tragedies," (Carpenter). This shows that he has obtained a clear understanding of his writing style, and he is able to craft his own story out of it. Instead of just claiming that he writes love stories, he was able to research the elements of his story to determine what exactly they specifically are. By doing this, he is also giving himself the potential to improve these stories because he knows the elements that can make said stories stronger. On Sparks' website he also gives a lengthy explanation of what elements make different genres. By knowing the different genres, he can easily make his stories understandable in whatever subject they are on. This is just another piece of evidence

that supports the claim that he obtained a clear understanding of writing. On the same page of his website, he answered a question about the frequency of death in his stories. He explained, “I suppose there are a few reasons that my stories include tragic elements. The first is that tragic or bittersweet elements are part of what define a love story...” (Sparks). Sparks is basically proclaiming that the genre he writes needs this kind of element. Although this may seem a little off topic, it fully supports the claim that he has a clear understanding of the elements of writing. By knowing what elements make up a genre, he is once again proving that he knows how to write various genres correctly. His inevitable determination is once again displayed in an interview. While discussing how he created his style of writing he claims, “...I read deliberately to see how authors crafted their characters, their stories, and their sentences.” Nicholas Sparks is remarking that he was able to start writing stories by using a resource almost anyone can get their hands on-- books. Because of this, it is once again evident that Sparks used his resources to learn about writing before actually doing so. Nicholas Sparks knew that writing without learning the craft was going to lead to many unsuccessful attempts. Knowing this, he took the time to learn the different elements in order to write various genres of stories. This is something that a destined writer would definitely do. Therefore, it is once again proven that Sparks was destined to be a writer because he did not succumb to the eagerness that accompanies the desire to write; instead, he took the much needed time to perfect his knowledge of his much loved profession.

All doubt of Sparks' fated determination to be a writer can be eradicated when one considers his ability to channel his emotions into stories that can seem relatable to the everyday person. During an interview with Tyler Kurbat, Sparks talked about the inspiration for one of his books. “*The Notebook* was inspired by my wife’s grandparents, who had a very special

relationship for more than six decades, and so the durability of that love informed Noah and Allie's story,"(Kurbat). He is remarking that his inspiration for his story stemmed from someone close to him. By mentioning this, he is expressing that he has obtained the capability to use experiences from close around him to create a fiction story. This is useful because he is able to write from experience rather than make everything up from his imagination, which could easily provide the reader with an unrealistic anecdote. The channeling of Sparks' emotions continue in his book *Safe Haven*. In the novel, one of his characters named Carly develops brain cancer and dies. Although it is morbid, Sparks' sister in real life also developed brain cancer and died. This instance just further supports the fact that Nicholas Sparks is able to channel his emotions into his stories which helps create a more realistic essence. Sparks keeps up his pattern of channeling emotions in *The Lucky One*. Sparks explains on his website how he saw a soldier in his mind after reading about the war in Iraq in newspapers. He explains how the soldier physically appeared by recalling,"He was in his fatigues and he looked tired and dusty after a long day on patrol.." ("The Lucky One"). This image he created eventually would lead to the creation of Logan Thibault. This character is the main role in *The Lucky One*, a novel about a soldier finding love after returning home from war. From using events that were taking place and effecting Sparks, he was once again able to transform his emotions into a novel. An equally important use of his skill is present in his book *The Last Song*. In this story a boy's brother is killed at a young age during an automobile accident. Sparks' father also died in a car wreck. Although they may not have been the same age when it happened, Sparks is able to use the emotions he dealt with during his mourning to fuel the actions of the character in his book. This once again is clearly supporting the certainty that Sparks possess the much valued talent of

turning emotions into stories that clearly express them. Unremitting, Nicholas Sparks used his experiences again to write *A Walk to Remember*. This novel is about two teenagers who fall in love, but one of them, Jamie, develops cancer. On his website he even goes on to declare, “In many ways, Jamie Sullivan was my younger sister,” (“A Walk to Remember”). Just like the character in his novel, Sparks’ sister developed cancer at a young age and died. He has also claimed that his sister was in love with someone too. Once again Spark was able to mold his own personal tragic love story by using what his sister went through. Sparks’ ongoing scheme of turning his own personal experiences into stories is prominent in one of novels, *Message in a Bottle*. This book is about a man who must try to overcome the grief that accompanies the death of his wife. Sparks explains on his website how his father had a similar experience after Sparks’ mom died. “He pulled away from his family and friends, he stopped going out, he stopped doing pretty much everything,” (“Message in a Bottle”). Sparks was able to use the hardships his father went through to create a character that did the same. Sparks’ ever present use of channeling emotions and experiences into stories yet again proves that destiny would allow for him to be a writer because the talent has allowed him to assemble novels that are praised and adored by millions.

Nicholas Sparks is the definition of someone who followed the footsteps of fate to unlock their destiny. All his talents and skills point to this conclusion. He possessed the determination to keep writing even after he faced the dissatisfaction that came with defeat. Sparks also grasped the opportunity to learn the art of writing with dexterous skill. He also can successfully transfer his emotions and experiences into stories that easily express what he went through. Nicholas Sparks knew the importance of using his talents to his advantage. He is now able to share his

stories and lessons with the world through his books. Thanks to his comprehension of following one's destiny, Nicholas Sparks is able to leave his mark.

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