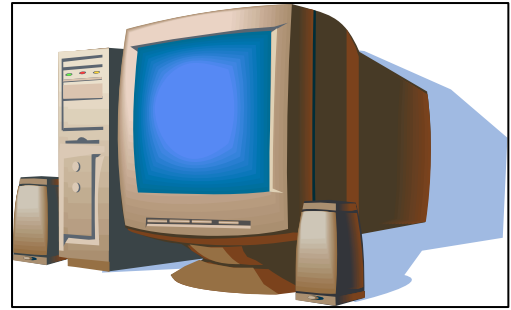


# FAILURE IS A GOOD THING??



NPR (National Public Radio) has an essay contest in which people from around the U.S. submit inspirational essays about something they strongly believe. The radio organization chooses essays that are particularly inspiring, and puts them on its radio program called "This I Believe."

Go to the following website address. You will read and listen to an essay written by Jon Carroll, a newspaper columnist from San Francisco. In his essay, Jon says, "I believe in the power of failure." Read and listen to the essay, and then try to answer the questions below. (Use your own paper if necessary.)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6196795>

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1. In his essay, Jon says the following:

*"Success is boring. Success is proving that you can do something that you already know you can do... Failure is how we learn."*

--What does this quote mean to you? Explain it in your own words.

2. In his essay, Jon also says, "first time success is usually a **fluke**."

Look up the word **fluke (n.)** in the dictionary and then try to explain what Jon means.

3. Jon mentions a famous African expression or proverb about a cook. According to this proverb, a good cook is \_\_\_\_\_

--What do you think this means?

4. In paragraph 4, the author says, "I've learned to **cherish** that column." Use a dictionary to find a definition for the word **cherish (verb)**.

5. In paragraph 6, the author uses the term **perfectionist**. What does this mean? In what way is being a perfectionist perhaps a **negative** thing?

6. Write about an experience in which you failed or made a mistake, and how that negative experience helped you learn something, do something better the next time, or made you stronger.