

Name _____

Pursuit of Happiness

1. Define social mobility.
2. What does the textbook say about open-class and the opportunity for upward mobility in the United States? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
3. What are the social and psychological costs of downward mobility?
4. What was your favorite childhood story of Gardner's?
5. What role did Reverend Cecil Williams play in Gardner's life?
6. Was race a factor in Gardner making contact to get ahead in corporate America?
7. Many times there were stresses to do the wrong thing to take advantage of an opportunity to get ahead. Give an example of this from the movie.

8. What are the possible effects of a child having a less than stable environment due to economics?

9. What factors contributed to Chris Gardner being successful in his pursuit of a career?

10. "Poverty results from a lack of will, and unwillingness to do what is necessary to move ahead in life." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

11. Nearly 33 million people-about 12 percent of the American population – are poor. Does this fact suggest injustice, specifically unequal access to economic opportunity? Or is poverty an unavoidable part of the human condition?

12. Why do you think Gardner chose "Pursuit of Happyness" as the title of the movie?

13. Rate Pursuit of Happyness on a scale of 1-15. Explain.