



RESPONSIBILITY

...grows good fruit.™



Photos courtesy of Rebecca Grella.



TAKING RESPONSIBILITY REAPED REWARDS

IMAGINE

...your family is having a very difficult time coming up with enough money to pay all the bills. There are payments for your home, food, clothes and electricity, just to name a few. Maybe you've experienced that. As a child, what are ways you can help your family when there's not enough money? Let's see what Samantha Garvey did in this situation.

Samantha grew up in a poor area of New York. It seemed that the only thing Samantha had going for her was her love for school. But how could a love for school help her family pay bills? When Samantha was six, she discovered her love for marine science. Then in third grade, she won a poetry contest. She realized, "If I pursue my studies and do well in school, good will come out of it. There will be a reward in the end." So, she took responsibility for what she could do by continuing to work hard in school.

Then a severe lack of money hit her family and one day they did not have money to pay rent. They were kicked out of their home and had to move to a homeless shelter. "Being homeless was scary," Samatha said. Can you imagine telling classmates that your family was kicked out of your home, and you were homeless?

It didn't stop Samatha from working as hard as she could in school. Samantha often worried about many things other students didn't have to worry about. This situation put a lot of stress on her, her siblings and her parents.

But her talent in marine science research gave her hope and the grit to make it through. Samantha's research teacher encouraged her greatly. Her teacher told Samantha about how science had helped her get through her adversity with cancer. So, Samantha felt inspired to take responsibility for her hardships, too. She was encouraged and found hope in her love for marine science.

Then Samantha entered a respected science competition. She became a semifinalist. When the press heard about her, they were stunned. Her story immediately went viral. How could a homeless student have the capacity to look past her struggles and excel in this top competition?

The response was enormous. Even celebrities, like Ellen DeGeneres, heard about Samantha and reached out to help. People were compassionate and generous. Her family received \$6,000 to help them buy food and clothing. They were able to move into a home of their own. Samantha also received a \$50,000 scholarship to go to college. That would help her continue pursuing her dreams.

And none of this would have happened without Samantha taking responsibility for her challenging situation and doing her best. She says, "If you keep your head up and keep moving forward, things will get better." Just like in Samantha's lifestory, we all can take responsibility during difficult times. You can take responsibility despite your challenging times, too, and become a hero in your lifestory.

Visit Mind-Cue.com for free resources and enjoy more inspiring lifestories, videos and more to become a hero in your lifestory.

QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING

1. What difficulties did Samantha have that made it hard for her to take responsibility?
2. How did Samantha respond when she and her family lost their home? What kind of support did she receive?
3. What can you learn from Samantha's example of responsibility? What difficulties do you have where you can take responsibility to overcome them?