

Both "Freedom Summer" and "The Marble Champ" are stories many readers will enjoy and connect to because in both stories, the main characters want to do something. In "Freedom Summer," John Henry wants to be able to do everything his friend Joe does, but because of segregation laws, John Henry cannot. In "The Marble Champ," Lupe wants to win at marbles. However, "Freedom Summer" unlike "The Marble Champ," teaches sometimes you don't get what you want.

In "The Marble Champ," Lupe, a girl who was never good in sports, is determined to excel at a sport. Lupe won many awards from the academic standpoint, but not a single one in sports. Lupe is not satisfied with that so she sets out to become a champion marble player. Playing marbles wasn't easy for her so Lupe "tried again and again," and "Practice, practice, practice Squeeze, squeeze, squeeze." Eventually, hard work and determination pays off as Lupe wins her first marbles trophy. Many kids have Lupe's determination when they work toward their goals.

In "Freedom Summer," John Henry, an African-American boy, wants to be able to do everything his best friend Joe gets to do. Unfortunately, John Henry can't do that because of segregation. He cannot use the same water fountains, get ice pops from the same store, and especially swim in the town pool, which is for whites

only. John Henry, like Lupe wants something he hasn't had. Lupe wanted a trophy and John Henry wanted to swim in the town pool. Both characters wanted so badly to get what they want.

One way the stories are different is in "Freedom Summer," unlike "The Marble Champ" the character John Henry didn't get what he most wanted.

When he got a chance to swim in the town pool, the pool was closed down. In the story "Freedom Summer," Joe tells John Henry that the laws have changed and now he can swim in the town pool. John Henry hollered: "I'm going to swim in the town pool!" He was so excited to finally get to do what Joe gets to do. But later in the story, the pool is filled with "steaming asphalt." John Henry responds with "angry tears." He faces disappointment. However, in "The Marble Champ," because Lupe was determined and she worked hard, she finally reaches her goal of winning a trophy in sports. In a nutshell, "Freedom Summer" has an ending where the main character doesn't get what he wants, which is a bit more realistic than "The Marble Champ" which has a "perfect" ending.

Although both stories have characters that wanted to accomplish something, "Freedom Summer" teaches sometimes you don't get what you want. Sometimes, there are things like laws

or other people that get in the way of your goals, not your lack of hard work or determination.

The two outcomes don't just apply to stories, they apply to real life situations.

Sometimes, your plans work out perfectly, like in "The Marble Champ," sometimes your plans don't work out the way you want them to, as in "Freedom Summer." It's just a fact of life that everything isn't perfect.