

The Marker That Could

The Shocking, Inspiring True Story

Retold by **Mas Negdoh**

Did your parents ever tell you about the story of Michael Jordan getting kicked from his high school basketball team? Well, I personally think that story is number 2 to this one of the scale of inspiring, amazing true stories that'll make you say "wow."

It is the Spring Question Day 2019. Mr. Rice asks Matthew to throw him the marker he was attempting to use, as Matthew's marker just refused to work. Matthew throws it at Mr. Rice with absolutely no good form or etiquette at all. The throw is so absolutely horrible and shameful that the entire class lets out a deep sigh of disappointment. Mr. Rice tells him that the throw had to have a nice parabola so everyone could see it, referencing Sam's awful cheese throwing abilities as what NOT to do.

Rice attempts to use Matthew's marker, but to no use. He realizes that this marker has done all it could. The marker was old, and it didn't have much left in it anymore. Mr. Rice, realizing this, throws the marker away, as it's lived its life to the fullest.

Mr. Rice gets a new marker out of the box, fresh for use. He has high hopes for this marker, as it is brand new and should be fantastic. He looks at the board and there is a question from

Hungarian Falcon. He uncaps his new marker and puts it to the board with confidence, and..

nothing. The marker barely works. It looks like it's been written with daily since the Stone Age. Everybody tells Mr. Rice to throw the marker away, that it has no hope. Everyone says it would just be so much easier to use a different marker, and Jack even offers a marker he tested to work much better. Mr. Rice keeps writing and barely manages to finish Hungarian Falcon's question before he realizes that this marker just won't work. Everyone in the class tells him to throw it away and just pick a new one. Mr. Rice considers the offer, and even faces Jack as if to accept it.

However, at this moment Mr. Rice realizes what he should do. He looks at his marker and thinks to himself, *this isn't what the old marker would want*. This new marker just needs to be pushed to his limits, and once he finds his potential, he will truly shine. So Mr. Rice makes the bold decision to keep the marker.

He announces his decision to the class, and they don't know what to think. Why would he keep using the bad marker when there are so many good ones at arm's reach? It truly bamboozles even the brightest of minds and the kindest of hearts in the room. But Mr. Rice has a dream. He has a dream to push this marker to its fullest potential. He knows that deep inside, there's a great marker waiting to be used.

He goes to the next question, from Greatest Common Divisor. He writes a simplified version of the equation. The marker is slightly more bold than before, and Mr. Rice hopes for the best. He prays

that what he thinks is happening is actually real, and a quick glance at the class tells him that they saw the same thing he did.

He holds his breath as he wrote the next line of work, excited yet scared for what will happen next. As the line finishes, he looks over his work. The ink from the newest line is the most bold and clear marker ink that he has ever seen. It's beautiful, it's majestic, and it's amazing. Overwhelmed with the feeling of happiness and success, he exclaims, "Look! The marker did it!"

The class cheers and claps. The marker did it. Everyone is amazed. Mr. Rice stuck with the marker, knowing it would impress everybody, and it did. It's truly an amazing underdog story, and one everyone in the class will tell their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren for generations to come. Mr. Rice finishes the problem with grace and glory, caps the marker, and puts it in his pocket, proud of himself. He then realizes that he still has more questions and takes it right back out again to answer a question from Barnes & Noble.

This story truly inspires even the darkest of hearts, and I am glad to say that I managed to put it to words to spread to the world. If you're ever feeling down on yourself, or that you're a failure, simply stop and remember the story of the marker. The marker that, despite the odds, came through and amazed everyone who doubted him.