

TITLE: Sparky

BOOK: Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul

PAGE: 192

TIME TO READ: 3 minutes

TOPICS: **Overcoming Obstacles**
Living and learning
Following your dream

AGE LEVEL: Grades 3 and up

SYNOPSIS: As a self-proclaimed "loser," Sparky found everything about school to be difficult, except drawing. Focusing on his assets, he told his woes as the famous Charlie Brown in *Peanuts* cartoons.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

Elementary teachers may wish to preview the story in order to clarify or change vocabulary for younger students.

It is important to help students to recognize that *everyone* has winner moments and loser moments. However it is critical to focus on those winner moments and to draw energy to them.

With older students, you can discuss the ***Law of Attraction*** (*that which you think about the most, you will manifest in your life*). For more detailed information on this topic, go to book appendix pages 336-elem, 338-MS, 330-H or watch a DVD entitled, ***The Secret***.

Read related story on the power of our thoughts entitled, "Worried Himself to Death," found in book appendix page 315-elem, 317-MS, 309-HS, and used with permission from ***The Success Principles: How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be***.

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul
Sparky

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

Define “loser.”

- What does “mediocrity” mean to you?
- How would you characterize “excellence?”

List the qualities that you see when you think of each of these three words.

Do worksheet on winners and losers.

Read Story

POST-QUESTIONS:

What kind of behaviors did Sparky exhibit that would qualify him as a loser to most people?

What might have happened had society viewed Sparky as a winner instead?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Draw your own Sparky comic strip.

Make a list of other famous people who were once considered to be losers at some point in their lives (HINT: There are several stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, especially the sections entitled “*Consider This . . .*”).

Read and discuss “Worried Himself to Death” found in the book appendix page 317.