MAY 2026 | DUNG BEETLE

PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard



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NEWSLETTER



Perseverance
MAY 2026

SAY IT:

Perseverance: Refusing to give up when life gets hard

KNOW IT:

ASK A GROWN-UP:

- Tell me about a time in your life when you showed perseverance.
- When has it been hard for you to persevere?

ASK A KID:

- Can you think of some ways you can show perseverance at home or school?
- What is the toughest thing about showing perseverance?

SEE IT:

We can all admit that sometimes life gets hard. It is difficult to keep on working on a goal when we face challenges or setbacks. If you have ever watched the *Ice Age* movies, you have been entertained by the antics of Scrat, the saber-toothed squirrel who is obsessed with getting an acorn that keeps getting away.

Gather the family around and watch Scrat demonstrate amazing perseverance in this clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAmIHa-Rztg. While it is funny to watch Scrat chasing after his acorn amidst challenge after challenge, we can all agree showing perseverance when things get hard isn't usually that much fun.

BE IT:

Take some time as a family and write down some goals. These could be fitness goals, educational goals, household projects, saving for a big purchase or vacation, or maybe just a goal to spend more quality time together. Create a poster or vision board to display the goal for the family to see every day. As you are working together to reach this goal, talk about the challenges you are facing and how you can work together to refuse to give up no matter how hard the challenges get. Continue to work together as a family to show perseverance as you encourage each other to keep working hard even when life gets hard.

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PHASE
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Have you done the math?

How many weeks do you have from now until your child graduates from high school? You have about 36 less than when the school year started!

No matter their age, kids need a few things over time:

LOVE gives them a sense of worth. Knowing they are loved and seeing others love each other gives an example of what your kids will look for in future relationships.

STORIES about their past, their family, and their environment give them a bigger perspective.

WORK that is appropriate for them helps to give them purpose and significance.

FUN helps give them connections to others.

GROUPS (a team, a youth group, a cast, a class, etc.) give them a sense of belonging and fitting in.

WORDS that encourage, support, and correct give them direction.

So don't miss it. This school year may be over, but there is still time to incorporate love, stories, work, fun, tribes, and words in the time you have left.

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PERSEVERANCE // **DUNG BEETLE** // SALMON

It's not always a topic of polite conversation, but poo is always a part of life! Some small but mighty insects have been making the most of it for more than a hundred million years.

Since the time of the dinosaurs, dung beetles have taken care of animal waste. Thousands of varieties of these amazing insects inhabit all parts of the world except Antarctica. Have you ever seen scarabs depicted in art from Ancient Egypt? Yep –dung beetles.

Scientists classify them in three ways. Rollers form balls from dung and roll them away from the cow patty, or dung pile of choice. They bury the ball for a meal later or use it as a nursery in which to lay eggs.

Tunnellers dig through the dung pile in pairs, creating tunnels underneath it. The male brings down more dung, which the female organizes. Finally, dwellers live right in the pile itself, surrounded by breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Some dung beetles mate for life, and in some pairs, the male helps raise the young.

But wait – that's not all. In relation to its size, the dung beetle is the world's strongest animal. A fresh dung ball can weigh 50 times as much as the dung beetle moving it. One determined male Onthphagus taurus dung beetle pulled a load 1,141 times its own body weight. And, how do they keep rolling their dung balls in a straight line? At least some steer by the stars – they use the Milky Way for navigation!

As impressive as these individual feats are, dung beetles together are recycling superheroes. Just ask cattle ranchers in Kenya, Australia, Wales, or the US for starters. On some ranches in Texas, 80 percent of cow pies are buried by dung beetles. These activities help control fly populations and enrich the soil.

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When the going gets tough, dung beetles keep going.

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PERSEVERANCE // DUNG BEETLE // **SALMON**

In the wild, salmon eat a lot of carotenoids (yellow, orange, or red organic pigments), making their flesh a light orange pink. The color salmon expresses this hue. With its orange component, salmon can stimulate action. It symbolizes vitality, persistence, and optimism. As a color name, salmon appeared in writing in 1786. A century later, the color was frequently employed by impressionist painters. Its popularity warmed and waned over the 20th century, but – salmon persists! According to ancient Celtic wisdom, the color represents rejuvenation. Like a leaping salmon in cold water, its namesake color always makes a splash.

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