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Reading Report

The Tough Get Going

Staying in the Game, by Jarod McNamara, shows that the best achievements are won through the hardest struggles. One hardship people may have is problems within their family that slow their goals down. For example, Todd Lamereaux, a parent featured in the book, lost his job, and consequently, his son had to delay college. In another example in the book, a divorce split a family apart and required a move that meant starting all over again. These were difficult situations, but overcoming these problems made these people emotionally stronger and more mature. Second, an injury can slow someone down. For example, Brad Johnston, a basketball player who wanted to play professionally, injured his knee as a sophomore and was told by doctors that he might not be able to play again. But he decided never to give up, and he worked hard at getting his knee back into shape by going to the gym every day. After hard work and plenty of struggling, he got back into the game and came back stronger than anyone could have believed. Finally, struggling with a disease can seem to make a lifetime goal impossible to reach. Many people discussed in the book had faced cancer, for example, but with treatments and keeping a positive attitude, they beat the odds and went on to achieve their goals. Other people with crippling conditions, such as muscular dystrophy or ALS, refused to give in to defeat and found a way to live fulfilling, productive lives. Achieving goals can be a struggle sometimes, but as McNamara's book shows, those who hang onto their goals through difficult times will have the biggest reward they ever imagined.

(278 words)