

Introduction to UP: A Hero's Journey Through Time

Liz Woody

Today, you are about to embark on an amazing journey-- the untold hero's journey of Ada Lovelace. Joseph Campbell says, a hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than themselves. Ada was just that hero. She was a pioneer in the design of the computer.

You will learn and hear stories of innovations, the innovators behind them, and the social and cultural forces behind their work.

You will learn that these innovations grew out of creativity and collaboration.

As Walter Isaacson asserts in his introduction to *The Innovators*, collaboration was and is central to innovation and increases creativity.

You will learn that the collaboration was not only among peers but also between generations.

You will learn that creativity came from individuals who not only collaborated but also connected the arts and the sciences.

You will learn that the Internet was originally built for collaboration and that computers were built to facilitate individual creativity.

Isaacson notes that historians and scientists are wary of calling periods of great change a *revolution*. They prefer *evolution*. However, the innovators themselves passionately expressed the view that they were part of a revolution. They transformed the way we live. These people often went nameless and worked against all odds to add to the richness of our existence. Their breakthroughs revolutionized our world.

TLA is a catalyst for innovation. We are dedicated to building our collective capacity to reach OUR community's revolutionary goal of 90% literacy by third grade. We are all on an emergent learning journey. We are exploring together, with you as educational leaders, the contours of what it takes to stand for the students in our charge in such a way that they are successful citizens. We are creating a Moonshot classroom. We are creating a Moonshot community.

[We have learned...](#)

We have learned that there is no silver bullet. There is no blueprint, no recipe for success.

We have learned that it takes 100% participation to reach 90% literacy.

We have learned, just as Ada Lovelace did, that we will need to innovate together toward our goal, and that creativity and collaboration are keys to success.

We have learned that we have a collective responsibility to showcase and share the hidden heroes who are creating the hope and possibility our children need to be successful.

We have learned that we need to share and celebrate the untold stories, “the glittering beautiful pieces,” that shape our present and showcase our promise for the future, our shared journey, both individual and collective.

The Moonshot Moments in Action Campaign this fall will do just this.

[We invite you...](#)

We invite you as key players to showcase and share your culture of innovation--the breakdowns and breakthroughs in your school and community.

We invite you to showcase and share your disruptive ideas that are creating a Moonshot classroom and community.

We invite you to showcase and share your moonshot mindset--a mindset that creates safe and connected learning cultures.

We invite you to showcase and share your yets... and your not yets... What you have done that has worked and what you are still working on/struggling with.

We invite you to showcase and share your heroic journey. Joseph Campbell would frame it as saying a hearty “yes” to YOUR adventure.

Together we are creating a revolution (a Moonshot movement) that will transform our community and schools in the way we live and the way we interact to ensure our children bear our promise of a Moonshot future.