

Spellbound

The majority of the spelling bee participants educated themselves in non traditional settings. Some worked with hired coaches, parents, and volunteer teachers. Though competition took place in the schools the top competitors learned remotely. All of the individuals in spellbound represent holistic education. The students strived for excellence in all of their diverse interests. Some of those interests include horse back riding, music, and athletics. The spellers were not bookworms but well balanced individuals with high personal expectations. All participants were developmentally ahead of their peers in the academic setting. However for some of the students this was not always evident. In some cases schools cannot measure the individual's high cognitive functions. The reason for this is students are not always allowed expression in their own personal way. Multiple intelligences are manifested in different forms based on individual's innate qualities as well as their nurturing environment. These different thought processes exhibited themselves in competitor's participation in the spelling bee.

The eventual winner Nupur was the highest motivated speller in the documentary. The previous year she had been a finalist but not won. She studied and sacrificed and subsequently was rewarded for her efforts. Many of the students were fine with just making the bee or surviving the second day. However Nupur's stated goal was ultimate victory. She stated she was motivated to work hard because she enjoyed spelling and was a proficient speller. Another inspired individual was Neil. His parents along with his foreign language tutor encouraged him every day. The community around him created wonderful opportunities for success. Both individuals learned their drive from parents who came out of poverty into the American Dream through hard work.

Neil thought about his own mind and reflected on his own memory. He executed a planned process on every word. He asked the same questions in the same order on every spelling challenge. His tutoring in foreign languages provided a deeper understanding of the origin of spelling words. He trained his mind to function in the best possible manner for his success. George, one of the youngest finalists, demonstrated metamnemonic capacities. His father said George could remember everything he learned from the time he was four years old. George used a visual thought process in competition as he envisioned the individual letters before spelling the word. Both George and Neil cultivated their thought processes through a multicultural educational environment.

George a home schooled student represented a strong training in virtuous education. He audibly and physically demonstrated an appreciation for all things true, beautiful, and good. In his interview his advice to the public was to trust Jesus, honor your father and mother, and work hard. Through homeschooling his parents transmitted their own system of personal values. His family's moral commitment made George the successful scholar he is today.

In conclusion the modern day school system is not solely responsible for education. *Spellbound* is proof the responsibility for quality education lies within each individual. Students must simply discipline their mind and commit time into learning their chosen field of study.