

# I can REACH my GOALS.

“Allow for the possibility that the best of you is still inside you, waiting to emerge.  
Prepare the way, bit by bit.”

⚡ Lin-Manuel Miranda

When students learn how to set and attain their goals, they experience the feeling of true achievement. In this unit, students will learn how to set smart goals and how to achieve them.

## ★ Reading Passage: Lin-Manuel Miranda

Broadway superstar Lin-Manuel Miranda had big dreams of a life in theater, but it took hard work and dedication to make them come true.

## ★ Short-Answer Activity: 3-2-1 Go!

Reflecting on the story of Lin-Manuel Miranda, students will think about their own skills and challenges.

## ★ Small-Group Activity: Get SMART

Students will learn how to set goals that are specific, measurable, and achievable, and help one another devise a plan to accomplish them.

## ★ Whole-Class Activity: A Vision for the Future

After answering questions that encourage self-reflection, students will create vision boards for themselves that embody their goals. Provide old magazines from which to cut out pictures, patterned papers, markers, glue, and poster or foam board for each student to create their own visual reminder of their possible future. Have students share their answers with a partner and their vision boards with the class.

## ★ Journal Prompt: The Greatest Day

Inspired by a quote from Lin-Manuel Miranda, students will imagine what it would be like if they achieved their goals.

## ★ Growing Beyond

As a class, create a collective vision board. Use a large poster or bulletin board, and consider sectioning it off into areas, such as “career,” “academic goals,” “friends,” and “financial.” Give students the opportunity to add drawings or pictures they cut out from magazines, as well as words or phrases that have meaning. What they will find is that their own vision may be similar to that of their classmates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ..... LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA .....

Lin-Manuel Miranda is the creator and star of the famous Broadway musical *Hamilton*. Although he dreamed of being on Broadway, he almost never made it.

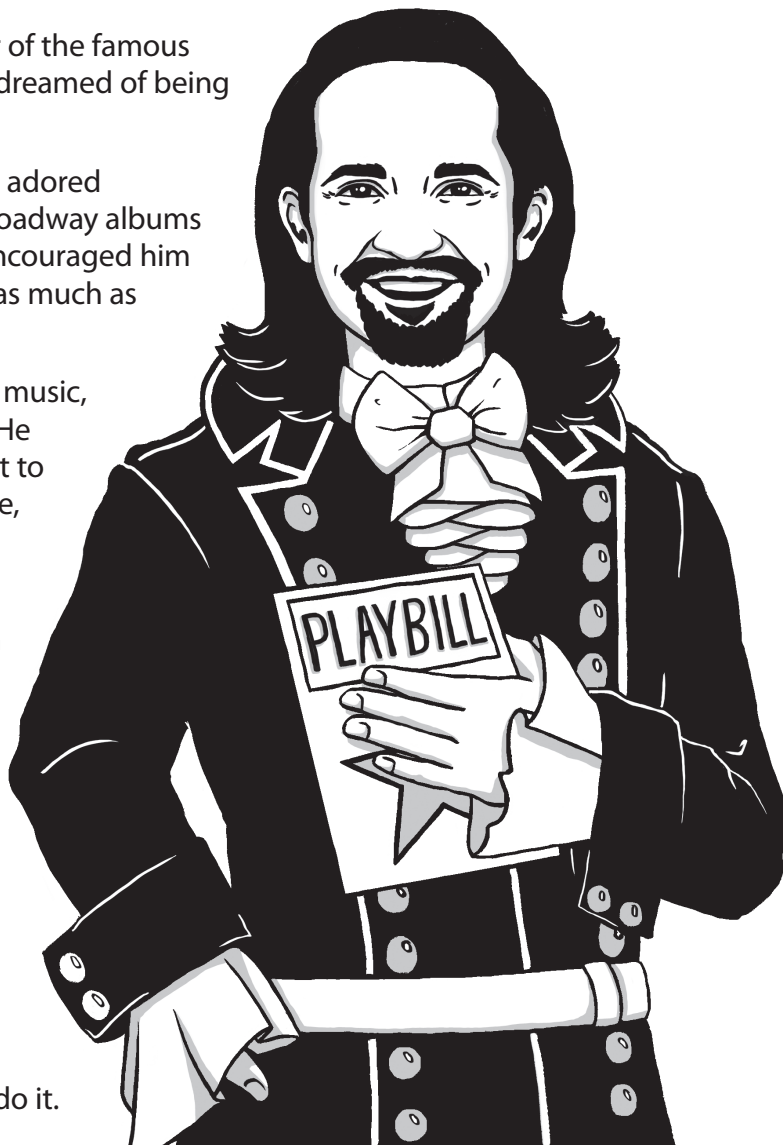
He grew up in New York with parents who adored musicals. They had a huge collection of Broadway albums they loved to play. Lin-Manuel's parents encouraged him and his sister to study piano and perform as much as they could.

He also loved listening to hip-hop and rap music, making home movies, and writing songs. He wrote his first musical before he even went to high school. By the time he went to college, he had written the beginnings of his first Broadway show, *In the Heights*.

Soon after he earned his college degree in theater, he began teaching at his old high school as a substitute. He was offered a job to continue teaching English. But he wasn't sure what to do.

His goal had always been to be a writer, but he knew that teaching would be a steady, sensible job. Lin-Manuel wrote to his father, asking for advice.

His father told him to reach for his goals, saying, "It makes no sense to leave your job to be a writer, but I have to tell you to do it. You have to pursue that if you want."



So, Lin-Manuel chose to pursue his dreams, and *In the Heights* came to life in 2008. The play won Best Musical at the Tony Awards and ran for two years.

Lin-Manuel put two styles of music together to create his masterpiece *Hamilton*. The play uses hip-hop music and show tunes to tell the tale of Alexander Hamilton.

*Hamilton* broke Broadway records and was nominated for 16 Tony Awards. That is more than any other musical before! Lin-Manuel has also worked on songs for the movies *Moana* and *Mary Poppins Returns*.

Through all his success, Lin-Manuel continues to encourage people to follow their dreams. He said, "That's being yourself. Chasing wherever inspiration goes, even if it's radically different from the thing that people know you as."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**3-2-1 GO!**

**Directions:** Lin-Manuel Miranda had a goal: someday he would write and star in a Broadway play. It took a lot of hard work and determination to achieve his goal, but he made it come true. Thinking about Lin-Manuel's story, answer the questions below.

1. What are three things Lin-Manuel is good at?

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2. What are three things you are good at? They could be qualities of your personality, skills you have mastered, or anything you are proud of.

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3. Name two challenges that could have stopped Lin-Manuel from reaching his goal of being on Broadway.

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4. What are two challenges you are facing right now?

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5. Lin-Manuel's father encouraged him to keep working toward his goal. Name one person you know who has a goal that you would like to see them achieve. Write down something you will say to them to motivate them.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GET SMART

When we set our sights on the future, it helps to have a goal to work toward because it allows our minds to imagine what we could accomplish.

Have you ever set a goal and just never reached it? That's why we have SMART goals. SMART goals are goals that we can track, work toward, and achieve. SMART stands for...

- ★ **Specific:** What exactly do you want to do?
- ★ **Measurable:** How will you know if you did it?
- ★ **Attainable:** Can you do it?
- ★ **Relevant:** Why is it important to you?
- ★ **Timely:** When will you have it done?

**Directions:** On your own, choose a goal you would like to achieve. Make it SMART! It should be specific and attainable. Include when you will have it done.

Then form a group with two to three other students. Together, help one another come up with a plan. Write specific steps you will take to meet your goal and what the benefits will be when you achieve it.

My goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

### My SMART Plan

I will take these steps to achieve my goal:

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

These are the benefits of achieving my goal:

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ..... A VISION FOR THE FUTURE .....

No one knows what the future holds, but imagine you could see into the future. What would your life look like?

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper or poster board, create a vision board that is a visual representation of your goals. You can write inspiring words or phrases, draw, or cut out images from magazines that motivate you.

Before you start creating, write your answers to the questions below. When you are done, share your answers with a partner. Then start creating your vision board. When it's complete, share it with the class.

★ What would you do if you could do anything? ★

★ How would you feel if you achieved your goals? ★

★ Why is your goal important to you? ★

