Bessie Sullivan



Bessie is 26 years old. She is a single mother with two children after her husband was killed in a factory accident 18 months ago. She works for a wealthy doctor who sees patients at his home in Dayton View. It is a long walk from Bessie's little row house on Third Street, across the river and up the hill. She would love to have a bicycle to ride, but for now she rides the streetcar (allow 5 cents each way for this activity). Bessie leaves her four-year-old with a neighbor who she pays $1.00 a week to babysit. The other one, Tommy (10) walks to work at his job in the pants factory. Bessie wants to be a doctor like her boss someday, so she stays up late to read books about medicine and surgery.
Tommy is below Ohio's legal factory-working age. His work is insecure and keeps him out of school; the family risks losing those wages if the work stops.

What does this character want?

Identify two goals from the biography.

_____

_____

Who brings in money?

Person	Type of work

Use this packet for written work. Use the website's calculators. You do not need to copy every purchase or calculation, even if a screen asks you to.

Discuss one advantage and one obstacle from the biography.

Who does necessary work without a paycheck? _____

Starting yearly household income: $_____
Starting savings: $5 before purchases or unpaid bills. Savings are not yearly income.

The Goal:

Our dream: _____

Total needed to pay for our goal: $_____
Income needed to support that life each year: $_____
Record the full goal cost—not the amount still missing. For Harold, use the farm goal; for other households, use the goal shown for their character.

Our targets: Standard of living _____ /100 Quality of life _____ /100

Justification: _____

What are you willing to give up?

After choosing your current life, what choices helped your budget but cost your family something. What made you think it would be worth it?

_____

_____

The plan

What will you do to move toward the goal? Who will give up time, comfort or opportunity?

_____

_____

_____

_____

When life happens

After accepting each year's decision, record what happened, your choice, and the cash carried into the next year. Use a minus sign for unpaid bills. Do not copy the forecast or just this year's gain. For the final year, record cash BEFORE paying for the goal.

Year	**What happened and what we decided**	**Closer or farther? Cash at year's end**
1900		Closer / Farther $_____
1901		Closer / Farther $_____
1902		Closer / Farther $_____
1903		Closer / Farther $_____
1904		Closer / Farther $_____

Did you get the life you wanted?

Could you afford the goal? Yes / No
Did you achieve the whole family dream? Yes / Partly / No
Consider the goals in the biography and both life targets—not just the money or the key.

Final standard of living: _____ /100

Quality of life: _____ /100

Did you revise the dream or either target? What changed, and why? If not, write “no change.”
_____
Revised goal cost: $_____ Yearly cost: $_____
Revised targets: Standard of living ____ /100 Quality of life ____ /100
Keep your original targets on page two.

Did Bessie improve her own future, her children’s future, or both?

Was the path to the middle class worth the sacrifices? Explain a trade-off between standard of living and quality of life, or why you revised the dream.

Explain how urbanization shaped your story?