Paul and Everlena Jefferson



Representative family photograph, Georgia, c. 1900; not the Jeffersons.
Paul is 35. He cuts hair, shaves customers and keeps careful accounts. Everlena, 33, can fit a dress, alter a pattern and turn a customer's idea into clothing that actually fits. Both can read, write and keep their books. They already own their tools, have regular customers and have put money aside. They are not starting with nothing.
It is 1901. They rent rooms in Dayton's Mound–Horace area with Ruth, fourteen, and James, eight. Paul would like to use his bookkeeping skills in a better-paid position. Everlena wants a workroom where a customer can have a fitting without the family moving supper out of the way. Ruth wants more schooling. Their dream is a house of their own, businesses that can grow and time to enjoy the life they are building. But they are Black. The seller offering your first dream house may refuse them. An employer can praise Paul's figures and still refuse to put a Black man behind the office desk. Everlena's work may be good enough to sell under someone else's name while she is turned away from the same shop as its proprietor. Money and skill will not unlock every door.
They also belong to a growing Black community. Church gatherings, friends, skilled neighbors and business relationships can bring customers, shared resources and people willing to stand with them. Wayman A.M.E. is part of Dayton's established church life. These ties take work too. Paul and Everlena want to build something their children can keep—not simply survive the next bill.
Paul, Everlena and their children are fictional composites. This line covers 1901–1905.

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: $120 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**
1901		Closer / Farther $_____
1902		Closer / Farther $_____
1903		Closer / Farther $_____
1904		Closer / Farther $_____
1905		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.

Which doors stayed closed because Paul and Everlena were Black? What did their community make possible?

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?