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### The Great Feat of Philippe Petit

Is Philippe Petit extremely brave or thoughtless and self-obsessed? “Man on Wire” is a 2008 film directed by James Marsh that portrays Philippe Petit, a French high wire walker and acrobat. An incredible event happened on August 7, 1974. After six years of forethought and months of preparation, Petit danced on a high wire between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City for about 45 minutes. He walked back and forth on the wire eight times without a safety net. What personality traits helped him to accomplish this? He was able to achieve his dream because he is creative, tenacious, and selfish.

First, Philippe Petit was able to achieve his dream because of his creativity. One day, when he was sitting in his dentist’s office in Paris in 1968, he was reading a magazine. Suddenly, he saw a picture of the twin towers which were going to be built soon. Automatically he came up with an incredible idea, and he drew on the picture a wire between the two buildings. He planned to stretch a wire between the two buildings and to walk on the high wire. Petit focused on his goal, and he said in “Man on Wire” “Usually when u have your dream, the object of your dream is tangible, so it is there nagging you, but the object of my dream did not exist yet.” During the six years that the twin towers were under construction, Philippe learned everything about the buildings. He used to sneak into the towers on several occasions and hide on the roof and other areas in the unfinished towers to study how to do it. He was coming up with new ideas on daily

basis with the help of his childhood friends Jean- Louis and other friends. For instance, Jean-Louise and Philippe came up with a new idea to extend the wire between the two towers by using a bow and arrow.

Secondly, Philippe was able to accomplish this feat because of his tenacity. He worked hard for about six years to make his dream real. He encountered many obstacles, but he never gave up even for one day. For example, while he was studying the buildings, a big nail went through his feet; consequently, he was ridden bed for three days, but he kept studying after he cured his feet. In addition, he had no proper access to get to the building, so he was sneaked into the building hiding from the security. He and his team made fake ID's. As his girlfriend and moral supporter Annie restated his words, he said, "I am going to do this no matter what, and now is the time." He was working hard with full confidence no matter how hard the situation was. For instance, in his first attempted he failed then he went back to Paris, and he started to study the buildings again; as a result, he accomplished it successfully.

Thirdly, even though Philippe is tenacious and creative, he has one negative personality trait. He is selfish because he hurt his girlfriend Annie and his childhood friend Jean-Louis. He would not have achieved his dream without his friends help. They were part of the job, and followed him where ever he went. For example, Annie said that she had to follow him. After he achieved his dream, he betrayed them. The first day of his achievement, he cheated on his girlfriend, and went with a girl who he did not even know. Philippe said, "My friends were waiting for me, Annie my girlfriend, I betrayed my friends. I remember I called them and I said that no I have many interviews to do, so I will see you soon. That is magnificent explosion of pleasure, let's say it, and then I went back... Oh frightened to death, you know to my friends I

am really ...really guilty.” In addition, Jean- Louis said that their relationship was broken, but he does not explain it.

Finally, Philippe had positive and negative personality traits in “Man on Wire.” He is creative, tenacious, and selfish. He could inspire people to work hard and to have confidence in order to make their dreams real no matter how hard the situation they encountered. On the other hand, he reflected his selfishness and self-obsessed behavior, which was not good for his girlfriend and his friends.