

## ABSTRACT

*The Pursuit of Happyness* is based on an astounding true story of Christopher Paul Gardner, a self-made millionaire who, during the early 1980s, struggled with homelessness while caring for his son, Christopher. Within the movie, there are plenty of interesting aspects that are loaded with the contents of how money matters attack almost all facets of someone's life. Yet for her thesis, the writer would like to perceive the impact of the financial condition and how the problems finally shape one's point of view of life itself.

In analyzing the movie, the writer is going to use the intrinsic approach, which will be emphasized on the study of character, conflict and theme. Then, the writer is going to use those three aspects to gain a clearer picture of American basic values and American dream as the central idea of this movie

As the final outcome, the writer concludes that Gardner makes a positive choice of his own that he should commit himself to go another way in order not to repeat the same decayed history of his past. The movie also illustrates how money matters influence almost every facet of Gardner's life as a man, husband and father. In the end, the writer finds that Gardner's behavior and reaction toward his problems are also motivated by some American basic values and also American dream that deeply rooted in Gardner's mind.

**Key terms:** *struggle, American basic values, American dream, the pursuit of happiness.*

*“I chose to embrace the spirit of my mom—who despite the fact that she had too many of her own dreams denied, deferred and destroyed—still instilled in me that I could have dreams.”*

**Chris Gardner on *Oprah Winfrey Show*, December 2006**

# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION