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Jules Verne

Essay's word count: 946

Jules Gabriel Verne was a French writer who pioneered a scientific fiction genre, innovative content which somehow seemed to be reasonable in the future.<sup>1</sup> Throughout his life, he put innovative and exotic ideas into his works and generated a great number of fascinating and imaginative works.<sup>2</sup> According to these, Verne has always been perceived as one of the most talented and imaginative writers. He was also called the greatest writer in his time and was entitled the father of scientific fiction.<sup>3</sup> However, by studying deeper through his life, people will find that another interesting aspect of this man is his strong commitment to his dreams. Throughout Verne's life as a writer, he had to encounter many obstacles and difficulties before he became very successful. However, he never gave up nor lost hope, instead he encouraged himself in pursuing his dreams and kept working hard. Finally, he became a very successful writer who is still famous in these days.

Growing up with his father who was a notable lawyer, Verne was influenced to continue his bachelor degree in Law.<sup>4</sup> He went to study in the college of Law in Paris, but later gradually discovered his true interest in writing. Instead of studying Law, Verne started to seriously focus on writing by composing numerous plays, dramas, and operettas.<sup>5</sup> By these, he revealed his true talent in writings and found the place where he really longed to be. He kept working hard on his writings continuously. Unfortunately, discovering that his son was immersing in writings rather than studying Law, Verne's

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Jules Verne." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 1 February 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules\\_Verne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne)>

<sup>2</sup> Bio, true story contributor. "Jules Verne." *The Biography Channel website*. 1 February 2013. <<http://www.biography.com/people/jules-verne-9517579>>

<sup>3</sup> Norman Wolcott. "A Jules Verne Centennial: 1905-2005." Smithsonian Libraries. 2 February 2013. <[http://www.sil.si.edu/OnDisplay/JulesVerne100/verne\\_intro.htm](http://www.sil.si.edu/OnDisplay/JulesVerne100/verne_intro.htm)>

<sup>4</sup> Tom Streissguth. Science Fiction Pioneer a story about Jules Verne. 2001. Page 8.

<sup>5</sup> C. D. Merriman. "Jules Verne." The Literature Network. 28 January 2013. <<http://www.online-literature.com/verne/>>

father was so outraged that he promptly withdrew his financial support.<sup>6</sup> Without the financial support from his father, Verne struggled difficulties and hardship. However did not give up to his dream of becoming a writer. He continued writing and supported his finance as a stockbroker, which he did not like but was very successful at.<sup>7</sup>

Verne had been working hard for his writing works. He started his writing works since he was in high school by writing short stories and poetry.<sup>8</sup> In his bachelor degree, he had chances to know musician and composer people and was inspired to create numerous plays, dramas, and operettas. However, all of them did not boom and were considered as not quite successful plays; he did not generate much income from them.<sup>9</sup> In later years, he turned himself to the novel field and started to write stories about adventures and innovative scientific technologies. By this, he became the pioneer of the writing genre called Scientific Fiction; nevertheless, his career was still not flourishing.<sup>10</sup> Rejected by many publishers and dishonestly paid by some publishers, Verne did not earn much income and eventually faced the financial problem again.<sup>11</sup> With all the difficulties in both work and financial aspects, Verne still kept writing. He continued his work and finally had a chance to know Jules Hetzel who was the owner of a publisher. After reading some of Vern's works, Hetzel was immediately interested with Verne's imaginative and unique writing style. However, he spotted some flaws in Verne's works and asked him to modify them properly. For instance, Hetzel asked Verne to change the sad ending of the story to be a happy one, and also to express less political aspects. Conceding to

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<sup>6</sup> American Literature Contributor. "Jules Verne." American Literature. 1 February 2013. <<http://www.americanliterature.com/author/jules-verne/bio-books-stories>>

<sup>7</sup> Wisegeek contributors. "Jules Verne." Wisegeek clear answer for common questions. 28 January 2013. <<http://www.wisegeek.com/who-is-jules-verne.htm#did-you-know>>

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Jules Verne." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 1 February 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules\\_Verne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne)>

<sup>9</sup> Ian B. Thompson. "Jules Verne, Geography and Nineteenth Century Scotland." Ian B. Thompson. 27 January 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules\\_Verne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne)>

<sup>10</sup> Tom Streissguth. Science Fiction Pioneer a story about Jules Verne. 2001. Page 58.

<sup>11</sup> Jules Verne and William Butcher (translated). "Around The World In Eighty Days." Anonymous. 3 February 2013. <<http://www.ibiblio.org/julesverne/books/awed%20revd%20edn.pdf>>

Hetzel's advices, Verne accepted his flaws and eagerly revised his works. Finally, when his first book "Five Weeks In A Balloon" was published, it was highly acclaimed.<sup>12</sup>

Encountering with life problems in many aspects, Verne had way to encourage himself to keep fighting for his dream. Appeared in some of his novels were the protagonists who shared the same hard fate to his. One of the most obvious examples was "Around the world in twenty days." In 1870, Verne was in a great hardship; he was conscripted as a coastguard the Franco Prussian war, he faced financial problem causing by the dishonest publisher, also he was in great grief from his father's death. In the most depressed point of his life, Verne found writing imaginative and innovative works the only way that could enjoy his life. In this hard time, he wrote a novel, "Around The World In Eighty Days," pertaining a noble man called Phileas Fogg who was trying to sail around the world in eighty days with the a great amount of stake. In his journey, Fogg encountered with many problems such as being secretly followed by a detective who suspected him to be involved in the robbery, and missing the ship in china, missing the train to London. However, with his partner Passepartout's helps, they safely went back to London after sailing around the world and just in time to win his stake. Moreover, the story ended happily with his marriage to the girl called Aouda whom he met and recued during his journey.<sup>13</sup> Although this happy ending only happened in his novel, it had a positive impact to his perspective that his difficult life could end in that way one day. By doing this, Verne was cheered up from his declined fate and was encouraged to continue writing and working hard for his dream.

Looking through his life, Verne had been through numerous difficulties before he could make his dream of becoming a successful writer come true. His life can be considered as a fine model for anyone who seeks success in life. It teaches that failing and disappointment are what everyone faces in life. In addition, before being successful, people have to learn to fail and to stand up right. Like Verne,

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<sup>12</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Jules Verne." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 1 February 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules\\_Verne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne)>

<sup>13</sup> Jules Verne. Around The World In Eighty Days. 2008. Page 5-163.

facing with many troubles and failures, but kept working hard for his dream unflaggingly. Jules Gabriel Verne's life really illustrates how strong commitment and effort bring about success.