

The poem by Edgar Guest is a poem about believing in yourself. It tells the reader that you should never give up trying to do what you set out to do. The part I liked most about the program is that he did it all with a good attitude and a grin.

After reading Edgar Guest's poem, "It Couldn't Be Done," I was inspired to tell the story of my great-grandmother Maude Newkirk.

Immigrating to America was something that she felt she had to do. My great-great-grandmother was brought to the island of Eleuthera, Bahamas on one of the last slave ships to the island. When my great-grandma, Maude Newkirk, was born her mother was about 19 years old. Their life in the Bahamas had never been easy. The island was very small and there was not much money to make. My great-great-grandmother was a seamstress and my great-great-grandpa was a local fisherman. When my great-great-grandma became pregnant with her first child she dreamed of making a better life for themselves and their child. America is where dreams come true. They left the little island in the Bahamas for a chance at a better life for their children.

Once my great-great-grandparents had made up their minds to come to the United States their perseverance was amazing. They first had to leave all of their family and friends. They had to decide which of their belongings to take and which to leave behind since they would only be able to take one suitcase each. Imagine having to put your whole life in one suitcase.

Since my great-great-grandpa was a fisherman one of his friends that was a captain offered to take them across and even let them stay with him in Florida until they were able to make their own way. The distance between Eleuthera, Bahamas, and Jupiter, Florida is 279 miles. It took them about four hours to get there. They prayed the seas would be calm for their journey. They were scared and excited all at the same time.

Once they were settled into their new life my great-great-grandma started working right away and my great-grandma was born.

Maude Newkirk grew up in Florida and if it's one thing that her parents taught her it was perseverance. My great-great-grandma taught her how to sew. After school, she would make herself and her friends clothes to wear. She became very good at it. She decided to start a little business making and selling clothing. Even though some of her teachers told her not to do it, because it would interfere with her schoolwork, she did it anyway. By the time my great-grandma was 21 she owned a tailor store in Hobe Sound, Florida and was able to provide for her whole family for her entire life. I was three days old when I met her. She was 103. She died at the age of 108. Because she persevered I got to meet her.