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| Taking a Risk  Chase - Saint Louis, Missouri  The key to success can be summarized by one rule: accept a challenge. Taking a challenge can be difficult, but can surely assist you in being successful. I have experienced many times of taking a risk. One of those risks was auditioning for the school play. I came to learn that without pushing myself to my goal, I would have had a hard time getting there. I believe that taking a challenge is the key to success because when I look at intelligent and well-known scientists, presidents, and business men, I notice they achieved their positions by meeting challenges head on.  Taking a risk can be setting a goal for myself or simply going with my gut feeling. For example, when I first arrived at my school I received an e-mail from a drama teacher named, Mrs. Armstrong. The e-mail was about auditions for a play called, The Little Prince, and I got this feeling that I should audition.  The day of the auditions came and I went to Mrs. Armstrong’s room and asked if could try out. Being a sixth grader at the time, upper classmen from the eighth grade were telling me sixth graders always got smaller spots in the play. Clenching my fists, wanting to punch the upperclassmen in the face, and setting my chest high, I wanted to prove them wrong.  Not knowing the main character had a French accent, I spoke out in an adorable British tone which sent Mrs. Armstrong into a state of happiness. I went home to tell my mom about how Mrs. Armstrong’s reactions were. Tomorrow was call back day and I was upset until later that night when my phone rang. I answered and it was her, Mrs. Armstrong, announcing to me that I had been accepted to play the role of the Little Prince.  The first day of rehearsal started the next day. All the cast members sat around a table and began reading off their lines. I sat down and we started from the beginning. Flipping through the book, eyes widening, and giving Mrs. Armstrong a baffled look, I wondered why she gave me a part with about five hundred lines! To this very day I am thankful that I had the courage as a sixth grader to stand up in front of upper class men and that Mrs. Armstrong gave me the opportunity to accept a challenge.  For some, taking a risk may help people achieve self-confidence and goals may be a great choice. Like me: choosing to take a risk was a great choice. I believe the key to success is taking a risk and going with your gut feeling. Even when mistakes occur you must take those mistakes and learn from them. We take challenges every day without noticing them, but you will know if you overcame those challenges at the end of your successful day. | **Annotate:**  ? for questions  X for things you connect with  Comments for anything you want  Circle words you don’t know  ☺ next to words or parts you like Underline claim  E next to evidence  **LAPS**  **Look/Literal:**What is this about? Summarize it in a couple sentences:  **Analysis:** What is the theme or main idea?  **Prove It:** How does the author develop that theme? What is his evidence?  **So what?:** What does the author want you to believe? How can you relate this to yourself? |