

WE ARE SURVIVORS

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Short Stories:

Applying the 7 Mindset Shifts

1. Awareness and Observation — Sarah's Turning Point

Sarah used to move through life on autopilot, reacting to stress and frustration without understanding why. When a mentor encouraged her to start journaling her thoughts each evening, she began noticing patterns — how every time she faced criticism, she spiraled into self-doubt. Over time, she realized these reactions were rooted in her childhood, where praise was rare and mistakes were magnified.

Instead of judging herself, Sarah practiced observing her thoughts like clouds passing through the sky. "This isn't me failing," she reminded herself, "it's just my mind protecting me." By becoming aware, she gained power. Each morning, she paused to ask, "Is this thought true — or is it old fear resurfacing?" That simple question transformed her reactions into choices. Soon, her days felt lighter. Her awareness became a compass, guiding her away from overthinking and into calm, confident action.

2. Reframing Beliefs — Marcus's New Story

Marcus was a talented musician who had stopped performing after one bad audition. For years, he told himself, "I'm just not good enough." When a friend challenged him to reframe that thought, he resisted at first. But he agreed to try.

Each morning, he replaced his old belief with, "I'm still learning, and every performance makes me stronger." At first, it felt fake — but repetition rewired his mind. Instead of seeing mistakes as failures, he began treating them as feedback. Within months, Marcus booked a small café gig. His hands trembled as he started playing, but the crowd smiled, and he remembered why he loved music.

Reframing didn't erase his fear; it made him brave enough to act despite it. His confidence returned not because he stopped failing, but because he stopped labeling failure as proof of inadequacy.

3. Gratitude and Visualization — Naomi's Second Chance

After a difficult divorce, Naomi struggled to find direction. Her therapist suggested a daily gratitude practice and guided visualization. At first, Naomi rolled her eyes — but she tried it anyway. Each morning, she listed three things she was grateful for: her health, her sister's calls, and her morning coffee. Then, she visualized her ideal future — living by the ocean, helping others heal, feeling peace again.

Weeks passed, and something subtle shifted. Gratitude quieted her pain, while visualization reignited her hope. She started taking small steps — a new job, joining a wellness group, volunteering. Within a year, Naomi moved to a coastal town and began teaching yoga. "It's not magic," she said. "It's mindset. Gratitude softened my heart, and vision gave me direction."

Through daily practice, Naomi rebuilt her life from brokenness to beauty. Her mind became her ally instead of her enemy.

4. Embracing Failure and Daily Repetition — Leo's Comeback

Leo had always dreamed of starting his own business, but after his first venture collapsed, he swore he'd never try again. The debt and shame felt unbearable. One day, while reading a book on growth mindset, he came across the line: "Failure isn't the opposite of success — it's part of it." That phrase stuck with him.

He began journaling his lessons from that failed business — what went wrong, what he'd do differently, what he learned about himself. Each day, he repeated the affirmation, "I learn from every

experience." Slowly, the pain turned into insight. Within months, Leo launched a new project — smaller, smarter, and based on what he'd learned.

When obstacles appeared, he no longer panicked. He adapted. His new company grew steadily, and for the first time, he felt proud — not because everything went perfectly, but because he refused to quit. Daily repetition had reprogrammed his mindset from fear to resilience.

Leo's comeback wasn't built on luck. It was built on consistent belief that he could evolve — and he did.

Each of these stories shows that mindset shifts are not abstract ideas. They are daily choices — small, powerful, and transformative — for anyone willing to look inward and live forward.

Reflection & Journaling Worksheet: 7 Powerful Ways to Change Your Mindset

1. Practice Awareness and Observation

Reflection: What thoughts or beliefs come up most often when you face challenges? Are they empowering or limiting?

Journal Prompt: Write down three recurring thoughts you've noticed lately. What might these thoughts be trying to tell you about your fears or expectations?

2. Reframe Limiting Beliefs

Reflection: What story have you been telling yourself that may no longer serve you?

Journal Prompt: Identify one limiting belief and rewrite it as an empowering statement. Example: "I'm not good enough" becomes "I'm learning and improving every day."

3. Surround Yourself with Growth Energy

Reflection: Who or what influences your energy and mindset the most?

Journal Prompt: List three people, habits, or environments that uplift you — and three that drain you. How can you make more room for the positive influences?

4. Focus on Gratitude Over Lack

Reflection: How often do you notice what's going right in your life versus what's going wrong?

Journal Prompt: Write down five things you're grateful for today and describe how each one adds meaning or peace to your life.

5. Visualize Your Future Self

Reflection: Who is the person you want to become over the next year?

Journal Prompt: Describe your future self in vivid detail — habits, emotions, confidence, and lifestyle. What can you do *today* to align closer with that version of yourself?

6. Embrace Failure as Feedback

Reflection: When something doesn't go as planned, how do you usually respond?

Journal Prompt: Recall a recent failure or setback. What lessons or redirections came from it? How did it help you grow stronger or wiser?

7. Commit to Daily Mental Repetition

Reflection: What new thoughts or affirmations could you repeat daily to reinforce a stronger mindset?

Journal Prompt: Write three affirmations that will help you anchor your new mindset. Example: "I am capable of growth," "I learn from every experience," or "I trust the process of becoming."

Final Reflection: Which of these seven practices feels most transformative for you right now? What small, consistent action can you take this week to nurture that shift?

Curtis Brown – Author, Strategist, Creator

Curtis Brown is a versatile writer and strategist who has worked with everyone from Fortune 500 giants to small, family-run businesses. With a background in marketing, research, and content creation, Curtis is passionate about helping individuals and entrepreneurs create lasting change from the inside out.

As co-founder of <u>Mandie's Safe Haven</u>, Curtis partners with his wife, Mandie Brown, to provide resources and tools for emotional healing, personal transformation, and sustainable business growth.

Curtis writes across genres—including business, self-help, fantasy, and personal development—with a focus on mindset, mastery, and purpose-driven action. His mission is to simplify powerful ideas and deliver them in a practical, inspiring way for readers who are ready to elevate their lives.

"Knowledge is not power... unless manifested." ~ Curtis Brown

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