



# CHRIS STAPLETON

Tammy Gagne



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# A Hard-Working Musician

"Can anyone tell me the definition of an overnight success?" Ms. Rawson asked her first-period social studies class. Connor's hand sprang up before his teacher called on him. He loved Ms. Rawson's class. Even more, he loved it when he knew the answers to her questions. Social studies was his second-favorite subject. The only thing he liked better was music.

"Isn't it someone who becomes successful right away without having to work too hard or long?" he asked.

"Exactly," Ms. Rawson answered. "Now, can anyone name an overnight success? Just shout out the name of someone you think fits this description."

Connor could barely hear the names as his friends took their teacher literally, yelling them as loudly as they could. A few hollered the names of sports stars. Others

**Alicia loved social studies as much as Connor. She was also the only student who had a higher grade than he did.**





**Chris Stapleton performs at the American Roots Music and Arts Festival in 2015. The event took place at the Walnut Creek Ampitheatre in Raleigh, North Carolina.**

named famous actors and reality television stars. When it seemed like they were all done, Alicia added someone a little different.

“Elon Musk,” she said at a normal volume. Alicia loved social studies as much as Connor. She was also the only student who had a higher grade than he did. Ms. Rawson held a contest each year. The student with the

**“How about that singer who won all of those country music awards—Chris Stapleton?”**

highest grade in her class didn't have to take the final exam. Connor was sure that Alicia would be the winner.

“Hmmm,” Ms. Rawson replied. “Interesting choices. Let's start with that last one.

“Why do you think Elon Musk was an overnight success, Alicia?”

“Because it seems like no one knew who he was when all of sudden he became one of the most famous engineers in the world for his work with electric cars.”

“I can see why you would choose him,” the teacher responded. “A few years ago most of us had no idea who Elon Musk was. But did you know that he spent more than a decade studying physics and battery technology

before he started Tesla? Sometimes what seems like overnight success is a lot of hard work that people don't talk about as much. The truth is that there are very few genuine overnight successes.”

Alicia tried again. “How about that singer who won all of those country music awards—Chris

Stapleton? I heard that he came out of nowhere to beat out all of the other artists who had been around much longer.”



**Elon Musk**



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