

ELEMENTARY POETRY

The Beach

On a hot summer day
We want to go play
Having fun in the sun
While wearing a bun.

The beach is hot
Even in the parking lot.

Looking at the sea
Under a palm tree.

Hanging in the shade
While drinking some lemonade.

Collecting the shells
And one looks like a bell.

Buildings castles in the sand
And watching my work expand.

The sun went down
And now I have a frown

It's time to go
But we may come back tomorrow.

Creepy Crawly Creatures

Creepy crawly creatures crawling in the night

Trying to open up the door with all it's might

You try not to be afraid

Of the things that might invade

You hear a creak behind the door

You don't want to hear anymore

Creepy crawly creatures looking for you

And you do not quite know what to do

You pinch yourself and open eyes

And all of a sudden you realize

Now you know its just a bad dream

Time to eat vanilla ice cream

Word count 84

The Four Seasons

In winter the snow falls and floats
We all have to wear heavy coats
The wind lets the snow hover
The snow becomes a big cover

In spring it's wet and rainy
But it can be bright and sunny
The wet rain makes the plants glow
And you'll always see a water flow

In summer it is dry and hot
But this is the time you'll want to trot
In this weather you would go for a swim
And climb and swing on a tree limb

The fall is the end of the year
The leaves in the trees you can hear
The end of the year we know when
It becomes winter again

The Baseball Game

Clang, off into the air
Soaring like a bird, the hit is fair
First, second, third, and then home
Come on runner, let's go
Next batter up, strike one, strike two, oh wait
The third attempt at bat, was oh so great
Run, run, run like the wind
Come on, let's go, run my friend
He makes it to first, then second base
It is the next batter's chance to make a great race
Four to three, one more spree
Two outs, two strikes, and one ball
The pitcher throws a bad one, to the surprise of all
Oh wait, he swings and his hit was great
It goes and goes and keeps on going
The runner runs without even knowing
Over the fence, it's a home run
Two more slides, and the game was done

Hard of Hearing

It all started when she was very little,
At 6 months old we discovered she couldn't hear a whistle.
A doctor later told us her cochlear was deformed,
As you can imagine our hearts were torn.

Little did my sister know,
Surgery was the only way to go.
Six operations later and many prayers,
The cochlear implant was the only repair.

She is getting better day by day,
She does not let anything get in her way.
Sign language is her main communication,
As well as many others in the nation.

My sister Emily is now five years old,
Any one who knows her will say she is very bold.
She looks up to me because I am her big brother,
Thank God for my good example from my dad and mother.

America, the Beautiful

I'm glad I live in the red, white, and blue,
because I can say freedom's true.

Traveling to the United States we go,
where all the streams and rivers flow.

I always love traveling to more new states.
We always remember all the amazing dates.

There's lots of freedom and liberty,
but there's also friends and family.

The capital of America is Washington D.C.

The White House is a landmark that you'd want to see.

On one side churns the exciting Atlantic,
and the other, splashes the immense Pacific.

Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming
Those are the states we might be going.
Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida,
there's a lot to see in all of America.

From the torrid Texan desert sights,
and the frigid Alaskan winter nights,
on all the plains, the grains and hay,
that is a common sight in the U.S. of A.

The Mississippi River, which cuts Her almost in half,
and on the plains, a mare strolls with her calf.

The grass is green, and rich, and plentiful;
it really is, America the Beautiful!

ELEMENTARY ESSAY

Wrestling is the Best

It has always been my dream to become a wrestling superstar. I enjoy wrestling because my dad introduced me to it. He thought that by sharing this with me, it will help me be confident and to never be lazy. Wrestling will help me learn how to stand up for myself, and it will also help me to be a hero to kids. Through learning how to wrestle, I know that I can do all these things and much more.

To begin with, if I want to wrestle, I will have to train every day. I will also have to eat healthy so I can stay strong. Going to special classes will assist me in coming closer to my goals. With these experiences I have to go through, I will be more confident. I will feel more sure of myself because I will know that I am strong enough to go into the big wrestling world with the other superstars. If I am strong enough to do this, then I am strong enough to do anything. I know that God will also help me along the way.

Next, I have felt the need to stand up for myself in the past. Because of these experiences, I feel that wrestling will help me be better able to take a stand. My dad always says that in life, I should not let others bring me down. By introducing me to wrestling, my dad has helped me feel the same strength he has. He has inspired me. He inspired me to be passionate and know that in any situation I will be ready to defend myself.

Lastly, being a hero to kids is important to me. I want to be an example to them. I will show them that they too can stand up for themselves and that they can do anything. Through my faith in God, kids will also look up to me and they will know that with God they can do anything. By being admired by kids and other fans, I would feel proud of myself. Because of this feeling, I would want to do even more.

In conclusion, wrestling has always been a passion of mine. Since my dad introduced me to it, I know that I can be a strong person. I can take charge of my life; I can also be a good example to others. With determination and faith, I know I can do anything. Just as the Bible says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.", I know that anything is possible.

Homeless Animals

There are thousands of animals around the world that need loving homes. These are stray, lost, or in shelters. The problem of homeless and displaced animals is huge. Animal shelters are full and overloaded. There's a major problem with homeless and stray animals worldwide. Shelters and rescue centers are overpopulated with unwanted cats and dogs. Therefore, they have to euthanize them.

Most people enjoy taking care of animals. Other people treat their pets like their kids because they have an emotional connection with them. Homeless animals have never had any choice. Most of them were either born homeless or abandoned. If only these homeless animals could talk so they could cry out for help so we could help them.

There are a lot of ways we can help solve this problem. We can adopt an animal from shelters. We can become a foster parent to an animal and help them find their homes. We can donate our time at an animal shelter. Depending upon our resources, we can make a monetary donation to an organization. Above all, we can also educate ourselves about homeless animals and all the ways to stop their suffering.

Alyana Faith Smith

I have lived in many different states, but in all my life I've never had such a good friend as Alyana.

Alyana is not only my classmate, but she's one of my best friends. She is my only best friend at school. Alyana is an example to me and our other friends. She is very smart, and likes school. Her favorite subject is history, and studies hard. Alyana would always choose to be inside doing math worksheet than to be outside at recess.

Not only is Alyana smart in school, she is well behaved. She never talks out, she always raises her hand to get out of her seat, (unless it's an emergency) she is always kind to her friends and classmates, she does all her homework and hasn't got one signal move down so far this school year, and she follows all the fruits of the spirit.

Alyana is also very healthy. For lunch she has fruit and chips. Sometimes a cheesestick, and she always eats her sandwich first. Alyana has short, curly, brown hair, and blue eyes. And she only has a few freckles on her face. Her favorite color is orange, and her favorite animal is the giraffe.

But Alyana has gone through a lot too. She broke her arm, sprained her ankle, hurt her back really bad, had flu, had strep throat and is still in our prayers. I like Alyana just the way she is.

Alyana draws pictures for me. Once I made her and me matching necklaces. She wears hers almost every day. Alyana and I are both best friends to each other, and other people. I think Alyana is a good friend for me to have and that I am blessed to have her in my life.

Word count: 297

Dogs

Have you ever heard of a cat being man's best friend? Absolutely not! Dogs are man's best friend and will always be! Dogs are much more loyal, much easier to train, and much more playful than cats.

First of all, dogs are much more loyal than cats. Cats like to roam away from their homes. They often go into other backyards, and the next thing you know, you might find your cat on your neighbor's roof! Dogs love their homes, and will be so happy to greet their owner's that they usually lay by the front door waiting for their arrival. A dog will wag its tail, jump up and sometimes even cry out of happiness when it sees its owner. Cats, however, will usually ignore their owners and won't even approach them. Also, dogs won't hurt their owners, as cats often do. Cats scatch a lot, and not only their owners, but walls and furniture too. Dogs would never do that because as I said, dogs are absolutely more loyal than cats.

Secondly, dogs are easier to train than cats. Dogs can be easily trained to stay off furniture, while cats, on the other hand, climb all over the place. That's right, your sofa, your table, and even your bed! Dogs can also be trained to do their necessities outside, while cats need a bad smelling, nasty looking, dirty litter box. Additionally, dogs can be taught to do tricks such as sitting, laying down, rolling over, and even jumping rope! One time on TV, I saw a dog do a handstand! Could a cat ever do that? It is obvious that dogs are much easier to train than cats. Cats are basically untrainable!

The best thing about dogs is that they are much more playful than cats. For example, dogs love to play fetch with a ball. Cats will simply watch the ball roll by or if they chase it they will never bring it back. Dogs love to go for walks or runs with their

owners while cats prefer to walk on their own. Also most dogs like to play Tug-a-War with a rope or other fun toys, while cats like to be left alone and play nothing at all. Dogs are definitely much more playful and fun than cats are.

Though cats may be cute, dogs are much better pets. Dogs are more loyal, easier to train, and much more playful. In a way, I am glad that I am allergic to cats because that way I get to have an awesome dog instead!

Word Count: 428

If I Was the President

If I was the President it would be amazing because I could make laws and have lots of power. I would be in control of America! My whole family would live in the White House! These are the things I would do.

First, I would make some laws. I would make a law that everyone would have to play soccer! Also, I'd make a law that everyone had to have lot's of exercise. Next, I would add more technology to classrooms. Finally, I'd make all school's Christian schools.

These are the things I'd do to the White House. First, I'd add some more rooms to the White House. I'd add a room to race remote control stuff. I'd have a remote control car race. I would make a drone racing stadium. Finally, I would make a helicopter racing stadium. With all these tracks I could have other people come and race against each other!

I would create a hotel in the White House so people can stay there. Then people could stay just for fun, or for work! Also, it would show kindness to everyone! Finally, people would see our kindness and be kind to each other!

I would be happy if I was the President because I could show God's love to everyone! Next, people would be proud of what I did. Lastly, I would be happy and surprised if I was chosen for President and these would be things I would try to change.

Freedom Isn't Free

Here in America, freedom isn't free. Many American soldiers sacrifice their lives for freedom. Every day we all must be grateful for all the freedoms we have. Many countries of the world have very little freedom usually due to Communism.

There are many reasons freedom isn't free in America. The first one I'm going to be talking about is conflict. Many countries of the world are in constant conflict with America. Hundreds of American soldiers sacrifice their lives trying to maintain peace with foreign nations. Many American cities are relentlessly attacked by foreign terrorists.

The second reason freedom isn't free is because of terrorism. Dozens of cities are attacked and bombed by terrorists. One of the most famous of these terrorists is Osama bin Laden. He and many other terrorists made it their mission to kill anyone with different beliefs. Often the terror attack of 9-11, America knew we had to put an end to him. So on May 2, 2011, the United States Navel Special Warfare Development group was launched on Operation Neptune Spear and shortly after 1:00 a.m., bin Laden was killed.

Lastly, freedom isn't free because it not only affects the soldier affects his entire family. Thousands of families are in constant worry for their loved ones lives. Soldiers miss out on many special occasions and holidays solely to protect our country. These soldiers are like unrecognized heroes in our country.

As I have stated in this essay, freedom isn't free. Due to conflict, the rise of terrorism, and distressed families. Every day we must be grateful for all the freedoms we have in America. God has truly blessed our country.

Word Count 274

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
POETRY**

My America

America, the beautiful. America, the free.

It is the only place I can be what I want to be!

I know that it's not perfect. Compared to heaven, it is certainly not!

We are one nation under God, so it's truly Earth's finest spot.

How can I declare to you the thoughts I have inside

for this special place, my country, in which I happily reside?

My family came from far away to make this place their home.

With hopes, dreams, and desires that no more would they roam.

They have gotten through times both good and bad.

By God's grace they have been happier more than sad.

My family is not unique in stories that they tell,

You can hear it from others if you would just listen well.

God bless America is the anthem that we sing,

and we also pray that blessings from God will always be our thing.

Despite the crazy things that happen all around,

if we do what's right, God'll keep us safe and sound.

I love my America, the "Land of the Free" and "Home of the Brave"!

Great unity as a people is what I truly crave.

Let us seek peace and try to do what's right.

Love each other and if possible try to avoid the fight.

Life as we have known it is really changing fast.

Let us move forward by learning from our past.

We used to judge others by the color of skin

when we really should have looked within.

We can never change that fact.

But as Christians, we must be better than that!

God alone can heal the wounded hearts,
but he can only do it if we give Him the chance to start.
Our Father has always been part of the American tale.
Our future will only be great by relying on Him to prevail!
I hope that I will share this place with the rest of my family tree.
God bless my America! My home it will always be!

Word Count: 336

The End

Something is off today
Strangeness fills the icy winter air.
I can't help but to wonder,
what is so different about it?

In an instant they vanish.
All the Godly people are gone.
This is happening, they were right.
They tried to tell me but I listened not.
Now a man is descending from the Heavens!
This must be whom they call "Jesus".

A plane crashes creating fiery explosion.
I have to run, I need to get away!
There's nowhere to go.
I hear people screaming, but I don't scream.
I am as frozen as an icicle, unmoving out of fear.

I don't remember a lot about what the Christians told me.
I never really considered life after death.
Who knew it'd be here this soon?
Who knew that today death would become me?

A tear slowly slips down my cheek
as I remember my family. I hope they are saved.
Deep down I know that they are as wicked as me.
I call out unto God, knowing that it is too late.

Fire is consuming almost everything now,
burning the tree branches, grass, even sidewalk too.
I want to run but there is no point.
I close my eyes and prepare to perish.
After a few seconds I open them again.
Why wasn't I dead yet?
The fire hadn't reached me yet,
because a huge crack in the earth's surface
separated me from the flames.

I sit in misery and anticipation,
waiting for my time to come.
I am not mad, I know I deserve this.
Even in my agony I am happy for those who are in Heaven.

It is very painful!
The scorching fire on my skin burns,
but I am not dying. I can feel the fire,
but my body is still whole.
This confuses me.

Lost in my pondering I haven't even noticed
that now, I am in a whole different place entirely.
There are others here, I keep my distance,
they are being violent!
Have they not yet realized that this is punishment
for that very thing?

I am still burning,
the flames and sparks growing hotter.
I sigh and accept my fate,
that is to be stuck in Hell for all eternity.

Word Count: 372

Nature

Free Falling water,
Trees of green,
I want to be there,
Breathing in the air.

Animals of nature,
So free and near,
Oh I want to hear,
All the sounds of nature.

Clouds roll in,
Rain starts to fall;
While I am playing ball,
Thunder roaring Lightning flashing.

At last you hear,
Wolves a night;
That gives me a fright,
The howls and barks.

Fireflies light the sky,
Starlight shining bright;
Taking away my sight,
This is what I am looking for.

It is 5'oclock,
The sun is rising;

So surprising

You wake-up.

In the morning,

I see the most beautiful sight;

That makes you want a bragging right

Light of day reflecting on beauty.

A bird call,

A bear growl;

A wolf's howl,

Are all sounds of nature.

Spring water so blue,

The sky so clear;

The grass so dear,

Nature so nice.

Peaceful sounds,

Trees on the ground;

Clouds floating around,

I feel so unbound.

Sun disappears,

Stars comes out;

Animals stop roaming about

No cars in sight.

A restful night,

Of counting sheep;

While I sleep

One with nature

Time to leave,

This beautiful sight;

I hold back tears with all my might,

But I will return soon.

202 words

Sometimes life can be crazy
We can't find this
We forgot to do that
Our head is spinning a million miles a minute
And everything is piling up
Inhale, exhale, Repeat
The day keeps on going and nothing is getting better
More Work
More time
More effort
Harder, faster, better, pushing yourself
Until you can't breathe
It seems as if everything is being put on you
And all of it is your problem to deal with
People are growing impatient and waiting on you
Time
That's all you need, but do you get it, NO
More stress
More worries
More anxiety
Inhale, exhale, repeat
There finally comes a day when its time to let go
So you run and jump in that water, and remain still
You lay there
Watching your cares float away
Looking at the tranquil scenes around you
Hearing, 'peace be still, for I am with you'
You let out a sigh of relief and come to the surface
Where life is still crazy
Only it feels much different
You have a peace that surpasses
All understanding
But it doesn't last long before you grow anxious
"Shh" you hear a voice say
"Be still and know that I am God"
Inhale, exhale, repeat

Word count: 206

Summer Don't Forget Me

We had so many adventures, we had so much fun
Beach balls and frisbees flying through the salty air
Playing on the sand and hiding from the sun
The feeling of wind brushing through my hair

Oh summer how I miss our time together
Palm trees swaying and kites floating in the breeze
Licking an ice cream cone and enjoying the weather
Bike rides, fishing and boogie boarding on my knees

Snorkeling in a coral reef had to be the best
Fish of all sizes and colors of the rainbow I did see
Pretending to be searching for a lost treasure chest
There was no other place in the world I would rather be

Sitting there watching the sun fade behind the skyline
Made me realize how truly blessed I really am
Do you remember summer? I remember mine
It's like no other season, for me it is like green eggs and ham

Though you are short I won't forget you
Every year I wait for you just as you wait for me
I will think of you leaving and it makes me blue
While you hold all my childhood memories

So many days we have shared
It ended so fast it is just not fair

Word Count: 210

Imagination

By Jude Hess

Imagination, imagination what a dream.

You could imagine a cow that is very lean.

Or even a toy rocket that could touch the sky,

Or an alien cow that fly.

Or a kangaroo that can jump so high that it can go to the moon,

Or a human that lives in a lagoon.

Oh all the nonsense in your mind.

For the things you can think of but that's your head not mine.

Eternal Punishment

Thrown into a place filled with pain and agony

My soul cries out to escape this insanity

Every waking moment I remember those who tried to warn me of this place

of how I rejected time and time again, that saving grace.

I look at my body and I see my flesh in pieces

The worms crawling through me never ceases.

Feeling a burning sensation through my body

I see the demons forth coming to torture everybody.

I try to escape,

but my sin was too great.

I had my chance, but now it's too late.

I began to repent as I approached hell's gate.

The stench of death, rotting flesh, and sulfur overwhelms me.

Realizing that this is not a dream and was not meant to be.

I see Jesus coming by.

He cannot hold his tears as he starts to cry.

I cry out to him to save me.

His response resounds unbearably,

“I have paid the ultimate price

to give you paradise.

But you rejected my mercy and grace

Now you will spend eternity suffering in this place.

I was there every moment of your life.

Speaking to you in different ways about my sacrifice.

Hoping you would accept my love

that comes from my father above.

Ignoring the signs of my calling was a mistake.

You will now spend eternity with ache.

You had your chance and now it's gone.

The sinner's punishment you can count on.”

I see him leave and Satan begins to dance.

I begin to cry knowing I will never get a second chance.

Word Count: 272

One Amazing Friend

She is friendly
Shows other people hospitality
She is cheerful
Makes people happy and cheers people up
She is creative
Draws a lot of new drawings and designs

She is good-natured
Considerate toward others
She is persistent
Keeps trying her hardest
She is dependable
Doesn't let people down

She is helpful
Helps in difficult times
She is supportive
Cheers people on when they're struggling
She is respectable
Polite to everyone

She is competitive
Wants to come in first
She is smart
Gets good grades
She is determined
Never gives up

She is patient
Waits on people to finish things
She is outgoing
Not afraid to be first
She is fast
Runs in cross country

She is loving
Takes care of her family
She is athletic
Is already in a lot of sports
She is encouraging
Gives a lot of good advice

She is talented
Amazing at singing, art, band, and more
She is protective
Stands up for people she cares about
She is funny
Makes others laugh

She is Christian
Loves God with all her heart
She is loyal
Stays without families in rough times
She is honest
Likes to speak her mind

She is focused
Concentrates on what needs done
She is my best friend

216 words

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY

The Virtues of Life

There are many virtues of life that go hand in hand. A few are peace, patience, passion, and obedience. The world would be a better place if we all followed these. We should try to be a good example.

First of all, we should exercise peace. Arguing and fighting will get us nowhere. James 3:18 says, "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." This means that there could be peace only if we make it. We should not live only for fights and drama. When we watch the news, we will hear many bad things that have happened. It is a result of lack of peace. More peace means less trouble.

Next, there is patience. We have heard the saying "Good things come to those who wait." This is true. If we take the time to listen, we will have friends who will listen to us. Patience can help peace come. Art, music, or any type of skill takes time. We will learn that waiting can be rewarding, such as friendship, trustworthiness, or even a good grade.

Another is passion. Love comes hand in hand as well. John 15:9 says, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue in My love." To have a friend we must be a friend. Friends cannot be spiteful to each other. If we are, we will not have peace. The Bible verse above says to continue in Jesus's love. We should take the time to be kind today.

Finally, there is obedience. Our parents tell us things because they love us, and the least we can do is obey. God tells us to do things, too. Numbers 32:23 says, "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sins will

find you out.” He was basically saying if we do not obey, even when we think no one is looking, people will find out what we have done. God knows everything. Obedience is a VERY important virtue. It leads to many good things.

This is how it comes together. The people with passion tell us what to do so we can have peace. Peace takes patience, but it will not work without obedience. There are many other virtues of life, but I can only cover so many. Reading the Bible will help us discover many more. I am challenging us to exercise these things. Not just reading, but following the word of God, will help us find inner peace. Bible time should not be a chore. God wants us to have a passion for Him, as He does for us. These things will not come immediately, for it takes time and patience. We may even find some of our own virtues. We should make sure to stay on the path of obedience, and keep our virtues.

Word Count: 489

My God-sister is My Role Model

People don't know how great God Sisters are until they meet mine. My God-sister is truly amazing. My God-sister is my inspiration because she is talented, she has a great faith in Christ, and is kind hearted. Thank God for my God-sister!

First and Foremost, my God-sister is my role model because she is very gifted. My God-sister has many musical talents. She has a beautiful singing voice. One time she visited me from New Jersey and was singing to me. It was the most beautiful song I have ever heard! Also, she plays the Ukulele which is amazing! I have never seen someone play the ukulele before. That song was a masterpiece! My God-sister can also dance very well. She has been dancing since she was two. She loves to dance, and I love to watch her. I want to be able to dance like her. She can do ballet, jazz, and almost any style she sees. Also, my God sister does drama. It is wonderful to watch her perform. She has a beautifully projected voice that the audience can hear all the way across the room. My God sister is brilliantly talented in her own unique ways. She teaches me to not be shy and use whatever gifts God has given me to shine!

Secondly, my God-sister has a strong and inspiring love for Jesus. She attends church every Sunday and is part of a youth group. In the youth group, they learn more about God, take turns

To conclude, my God sister is the best. She has amazing gifts, she loves Christ, and is so compassionate. She inspires me in countless ways. She is the best God-sister ever, and I couldn't ask for a better role model!

Word Count: 562

Fidgeting

I've never been productive when I sit still. I always have to click a pen or tap my feet. In fact, I'm tapping my foot right now! There are both good and bad qualities to fidgeting, and I've noticed both!

First off, if I don't fidget, I can't focus on my work. If my foot isn't tapping or my pen isn't clicking or my fingers aren't moving, then I'm looking around to see what's going on. When I fidget I concentrate deeply on my work. Also, if I'm caught off-guard, it would be for doodling. I usually draw basic 3-D figures, then I draw patterns on them, wait, does it matter what I draw? (That was a rhetorical question.) After that, I would be caught day-dreaming, or looking into space.

Fortunately my shoulder-partner or someone sitting close to me will tell me to "snap out of it" or literally snap their fingers in front of my face...it usually works either way.

Next up, fidgeting helps me think. When I'm not moving I lost ideas that were just in my head because I'm easily distracted. Then, I strain my mind to get those ideas back, but by then they're gone. By this time, I'm stressed and annoyed. Then, my mind is blank and I can't think for the rest of the time.

These were all good reasons about fidgeting...

But there's one topic that irritates me...fidgeting is a distraction to others. In fifth grade, my teacher would constantly say, "if you're going to fidget, don't let me see

My Biblical Role Model

Who was a strong leader that was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? Through this man's trust in God, His people would be free from Pharaoh's tyranny. Moses was a man of the Lord and is my role model. I have always admired him for his faith, bravery, and humility. The great feats that he performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, could not have been possible without a complete partnership with God.

To begin, I believe God chose Moses to take the Israelites out of Egypt because of his reliance. No matter what was thrown at him he always trusted God to take care of it. For instance, when he went to confront pharaoh. The pharaoh could have killed Moses for the things he said right then and there. Moses knew this, but he was still trusting in God and knew His hand would protect him. When he was in the wilderness and the pharaoh's army was chasing them to re-enslave them, Moses knew God would do something powerful to save His people. Then God told Moses to part the Red Sea with his staff. Those words sound absolutely baffling and crazy but Moses obeyed and did so. Then the Israelites crossed on dry land and the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea. God once again showed his power when the Israelites were in the wilderness. It says in Exodus 16:2-3, "And the whole

congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Moses still trusted God would provide in this difficult time, and He did, manna and quail dropped the sky every-day for them to eat. Moses makes me realize that God will always help in everything that happens that I should not fear any situation because the Lord will protect me.

The second great attribute of Moses that I want incorporate in my life is his courage. Bravery is shown when Moses was young. When he had fled from the Pharaoh, he stopped at a well where woman were getting water for their sheep. These women were then bothered by some shepherds. Moses had traveled for a long time and was exhausted. He saw women that needed help and did not think of his own tiredness, but bravely protected them. Even though there were many shepherds, he was still able to make them flee. That is not only brave, but also kind. Moses shows me not to be afraid to always help others no matter what. God also gave Moses the responsibility of leading the Israelite out of Egypt and into the Promised Land of Canaan. This job had to be scary and stressful, he was leading about two-thousand people into the

wilderness for goodness-sake. Although these human emotions were there with Moses the entire time. He knew that God knew what he was doing, and Moses toughed it through with extreme courageousness. To most people on the Earth death seems very frightening. When Moses' time came, he was ready for his soul to be taken. Moses was not scared of death, he knew that his part in Israel's legacy was fulfilled. Then Moses let God take his spirit to paradise. Moses had incredible fearlessness throughout his whole life, he continually showed his bravery through all that he went through. He shows true valor, I pray that I may have his same courageousness.

Thirdly, Moses was a humble man who would put others before himself. In fact Numbers 12:3 gives a good example of it. Miriam and Aaron were slandering him and his wife, so God gave Miriam leprosy. When Moses saw her, he was concerned. Even after she was speaking badly of him and his spouse, Moses was still worried about his sister. He knew what they had said, but Moses put his own sadness to the side for his sister's well-being. Even though God gave Moses so much power over Israel it did not get to his head. Moses could have disobeyed God and rule Israel as he pleased, but Moses let God tell him how to lead. He was submitting to his authority, and putting himself below God. He also did not feel as if he was the only one to speak with God or to prophesy. Instead Moses would rejoice when others did these

amazing works. Moses could have felt as if his power was being threatened or that he was not special. Moses had a sense of humbling himself and even though it took some time he learned. This example motivates me to put others before me, and to submit to my authorities. Lord willing, I can learn to be meek as a Moses.

All in all, Moses was a man of God. A man who had strong leadership. He was a man who trusted God whole heartedly, he was always gallant, and is the meaning of true meekness. God blessed this man with amazing traits. Moses' life motivates me to be a better person. Moses is an amazing biblical role model!

Word Count: 901

My Dog

My dog's name is Mokey. He is a smart, playful, loyal, and an old golden retriever. He is very smart. When he was younger he knew a lot of commands. When you pointed at him, he knew what you meant. If you pointed your finger at him, he knew it meant no or stop. If you held your hand up to him with an open palm, he knew that meant to stay. He learned how to fetch, sit, stay, lay and shake. One time he was in the trunk of the van and he climbed through the cluttered van, over the backseat, and into the driver's seat waiting for us to come out of the restaurant. On top of being smart he is also playful.

When it comes to playing, he is easily tricked. You can fake throw the ball twenty times in a row and he will fall for it every single time. He was also extremely energetic. He used to be able to play for an hour or more but now he is old. He did not give up the ball very easily because he had a strong grip which is why we had to play with two balls. We would throw one ball. He would bring that ball back. We would show him the other ball and he would drop the ball he had fetched and then we would throw the second ball. While he is playful, he is also a loving dog.

He will always stick close to you. When you take him for a walk he will not try to bolt away. If he is lying down he will not care if you lay your head on him. You could even take sleep on him. We even have a picture of my brother laying on him when he was a baby. He will let you put your feet on him and he loves it when you pet him. He is exceedingly loving but he is also quite old.

He is almost 100 years old in dog years. He is almost blind. One time he ran into a glass door. He has to walk on the perimeter of the yard to find his way to the house. He is considerably deaf. He can barely hear you if you call his name. You have to get very close to him for him to be able to hear you. Because he is old he is not as energetic as he used to be, and he can only play for about five minutes. As you can see he is well along in years.

He is quite an awesome dog and though now past his prime and does not move quite like he used to I still love him and will miss him when he is gone.

Word Count: 470

My Role Model

A role model is someone that is admired as special individual for what they do and how they carry themselves. A role model inspires others to be better. Ever since I was a little girl my mom has captivated me with her grace and love for me. As I grew older, I've had a myriad of people that I have looked up to, but none has quite compared to the unsurpassed woman that I call mom. My mom is the person I aspire to be like when I am older because she has all the characteristics I would want to pursue as I mature into an adult. She is a great mother, a spiritual woman who loves Christ, and the strongest person I know. Out of all the women that I've known, my mother is the one and only individual I desire to imitate.

First and foremost, my mom has all the characteristics I would like to follow when I grow up. Throughout all my years my mom has been there to take care of me and my daily needs. She works hard to give me and my siblings the best life possible. My mom is the only person I know that would do anything to make sure I am okay. In the book of 1 Thessalonians 2:8 it says, "We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." I have no doubt that my mother loves me. If there is one thing my mom taught me, it is to be the best young woman I can possibly be. Whenever I am feeling down, or I am mad she gives

me advice and talks me through it. Sometimes she tells me stories about some of the mistakes she made when she was younger so that I can better myself and learn from it. My mom is my go to support system whenever I feel like quitting on something, she is always there to encourage me and remind me to never give up. I am appreciative to have a mom that loves and cares for me. I learn more and more from every day about the true meaning of sacrificial love.

In addition, my mom is a faithful woman in Christ. From the time when she was a little baby she grew up going to church and remained Godly as she got older. 2 Peter 3:18 states "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." I respect how my mom did not let anything distract her as she was an adolescent and continued to be in the right path with Jesus. Every day my mom prays and talks to the Lord thanking him for waking up her family and blessing her with food and shelter. My mom inspires me by telling me to pray not only when in need but to thank him for everything. She lives by the verse Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." My mom found out that she was pregnant and a later age. She was told that the baby has many health problems. My mom was stressed about her pregnancy due to the baby's heart condition and possible illness, but gave her fear to the Lord. Through daily prayer and faith she no longer

worries because God took the tension away and showed her that she can get through this. I think my mom meets the special qualities a Christian woman requires by seeing the Godly devoted actions she portrays in public and behind closed doors. I want to have a total devotion to the Lord as she does.

Lastly, my mom is a strong woman and a hard worker. Growing up, my mother's family were very poor so that inspired my mom even more to strive for greatness. She graduated high school and has been working at Baptist Hospital for over ten years. She is currently doing online college. Out of thirteen children, my mom is the oldest girl. When her mom went through challenging times, she took care of all her sisters and brothers to the best of her ability. When my mom was pregnant in her adolescent years, she had to work two jobs to maintain her household. As Proverbs 12:11 says, "He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread..." Through her hard work, she was able to help her family, raise children, and continue her education. I admire my mom's works ethic because it motivates me to do my greatest in everything I do. My mom taught me that I must work hard have a successful life.

In conclusion, my mom is my inspiration for many reasons because she has great qualities that I would like to incorporate in my life. She is a nurturing mother, a Godly woman in Christ,

and I value her amazing hard-working ethic. My mom has impacted and played an inspirational role in my life. I am truly blessed! I cannot wait to see what more she has to teach me!

Word Count: 847

Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery Experience

Upon traveling to Washington D.C., I was able to experience some of our nation's most prized treasures. There are numerous museums and art galleries that attract millions of visitors like myself each year. However, seeing the gorgeous historical pieces and being amongst the inspiring vibe at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery is certainly at the top of my list of places to visit. The artwork alone was so endearing and the portraits were in such detail that I found it hard to pull myself from each room, only to find that the next would be just as beautiful. One room specifically amazed me, as it contained an old grand piano that took my breath away. It was so well preserved that every detail seemed to be on display. From the color of the lovely mural painted in the lid, to the beautiful light brown, shiny wooden exterior, I found myself adoring this historical beauty for quite a long time. But of course I found that many other things in the gallery were just as alluring as the piano. The stone portraits in the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery were definitely intriguing, as well as the elaborate designs of the paintings, and every detail sculpted on a statue seemed to put me back in time to the era of each piece's creation.

The atmosphere in the Smithsonian Gallery was both inspiring and motivational. In each room filled with artwork, I felt that all I wanted to do was sit down and paint a masterpiece of my own. In almost every section of the building I visited, I found there was someone drawing one or more of the pieces, or even drawing the people who visited there. The most beautiful part was that every piece was from different eras of time, and yet they were brought together and displayed in such a way that seemed to combine them rather suitably. I am so thankful that I was fortunate enough to see this dazzling gallery, and I can not wait until I can go back to spend more time at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

Word Count: 355