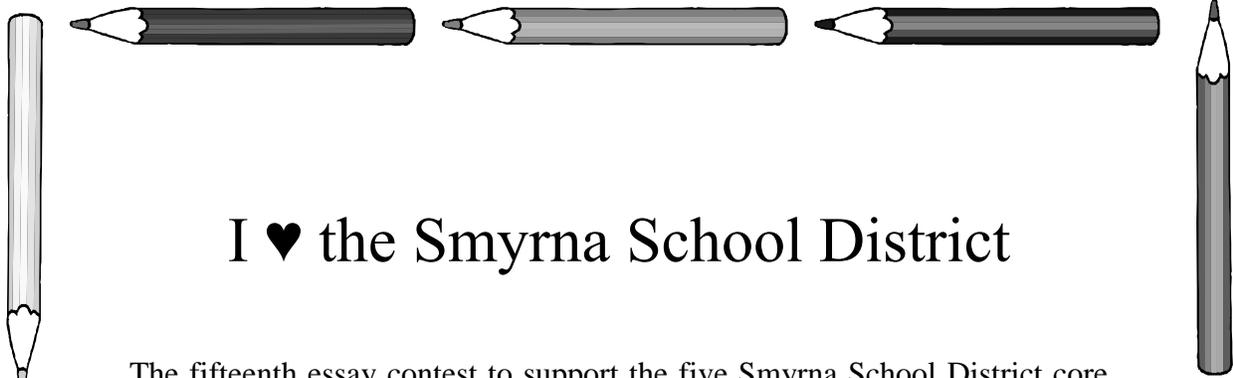


Smyrna School District

Essay Contest

2016

Student Winners



I ♥ the Smyrna School District

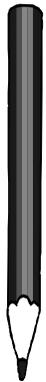
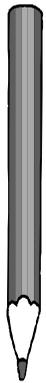
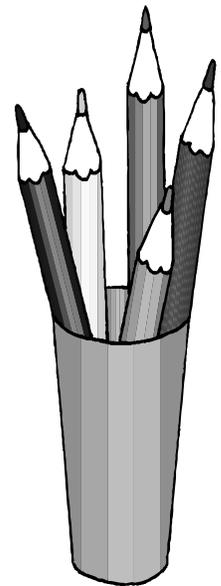
The fifteenth essay contest to support the five Smyrna School District core values of *Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion* was held during the month of January 2016. During “I Love the Smyrna School District” day on February 27, 2016, first, second and third place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments.

The 2016 writing contest focused on the value of *Respect*. Hundreds of touching and heartfelt essays were submitted. This booklet contains the essays of first, second and third place winners at all levels.

I hope this booklet is a source of inspiration for both the readers and the writers.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed their time and effort to enter this contest and share their thoughts.

Debbie Wicks
Superintendent



For the annual “I Love the Smyrna School District” essay contest, students were asked to write about *Respect*, a core district value. Contest rules and writing prompt were disseminated to students (via their teachers) in December 2015. June Wicks, district reading coordinator, prepared the prompt and assisted with coordinating the essay contest. Jamie Cox, Smyrna School District Curriculum Office secretary, completed the typing and formatting of the publication and assisted with the layout and editing of the publication. Alexander “Sandy” Shalk, Ed.D. conducted the contest and edited the final publication. District teachers encouraged their students to write and helped select essays. Appreciation is extended to all for their time and effort in making this publication possible.

Essay Contest

Contestants are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic:

Respect – means having a high regard for oneself and others. This would include self-worth, pride, physical well-being, contentment, peace, humor, appreciation for differences and individuality, fairness, respect, and tolerance. This may include faith in God.

Write about a person you admire who has the qualities of respect. Tell in detail why you chose this particular person, what specific qualities this person possesses, and give specific examples of how he/she demonstrates respect.

STUDENT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners are selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. All winners were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 27, 2016).

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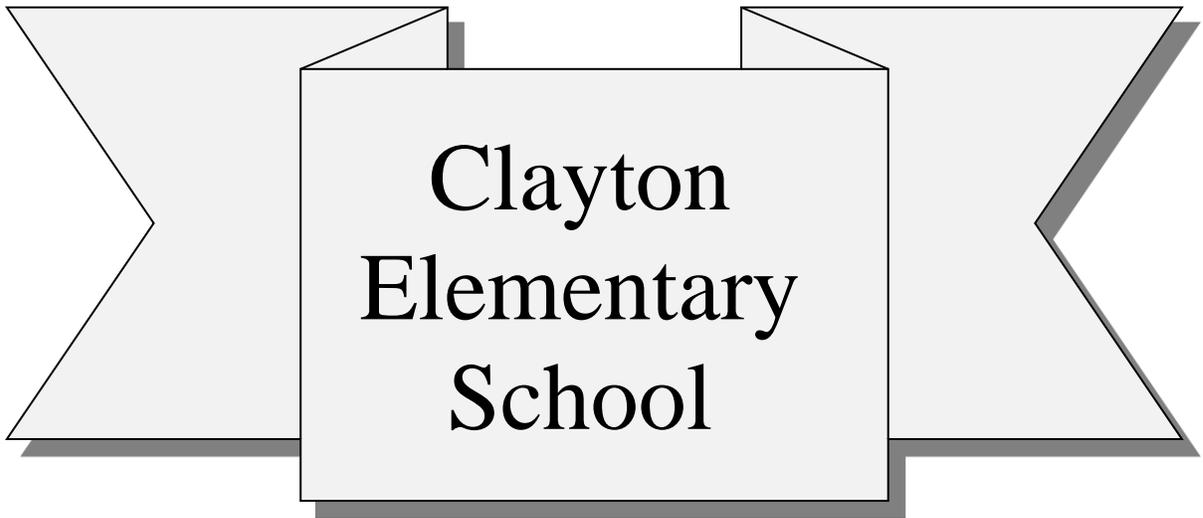
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Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

Martin Luther King is special to me. He helped put everyone together. I respect him because he made the world a better place.

Peyton Craig
First Place, Kindergarten

God is special to me. He made the world. I respect him because he loves me.

Jolene Mikhail
Second Place, Kindergarten

Mom is special to me. She loves and supports me. I respect her because she is a hard worker.

Joe'lee Holmes
Third Place, Kindergarten

Amber Sayers is a special person to me. She is special because she shows respect. I respect Amber because she is very nice to everyone. When we go on fun trips I say, "Can you sit next to me?" And she says "yes!"

Augustus Jones
First Place, First Grade

Do you know what it means to respect someone? Respect means to admire someone. I respect Mary to admire someone. First, Mary always plays with me at recess. Next, she is very nice to me all the time. Last, when we have a play date Mary plays with me all the time. Who do you respect?

Maren Bedford
Second Place, First Grade

My mom is a special person to me. She is special because she helps me with my homework. I respect her because she taught me how to say please and thank you. My mom respects me because she takes me to fun places.

Isabella Czechowski
Third Place, First Grade

Respect means to have a good opinion of someone. The person I respect is my friend, Wren. Wren lets me play with her a lot. We like to play tag. We also like to play on the playground.

Wren always uses kind words. She also uses funny words. Wren comes up with nice and funny sentences.

Wren helps me understand things, when I don't know what something is. Wren is pretty smart.

Wren and I are great friends. She is really nice. I think Wren is as wonderful as a sister. I love having Wren as my friend. We are BFFs.

Kaia Ashley
First Place, Second Grade

Do you want to know who I respect the most? I respect my brother, Shane. He is nice to me and a good brother. He lets me do my homework with him when I need help. He tells me the answer when I am struggling. He plays games with me like baseball and soccer. When I have bad dreams he lets me sleep with him even now. He takes all the covers. I respect Shane. He is my brother and he is smart. I love to have Shane as my big brother.

Nyla Drobinski
Second Place, Second Grade

There are many special people in my life. But my most important to me is my Auntie Em because she plays with me. We play board games and arts and crafts. When I do something wrong, she does not yell at me. Like when I jump on the bed. She is very kind. One time she tickled me so hard I fell. My Auntie Em loves me very much, and I love her back. Auntie Em I love you more than anything in the world.

Annabella Mumley
Third Place, Second Grade

Respect to me is showing someone that you care for them and appreciate them for who they are. You can help somebody when they look like they are struggling. Also, you can care for somebody when they look like they need it. Some people that are good role models of being respectful are parents, family, and friends because they show respect all the time.

I am respectful at home by being mindful of others' property. Also, I don't take advantage of others. Another example is to be appreciative for what you have.

Not only is it very important to show respect at home, but it is also very important to show respect at school. You can do this by giving compliments to classmates and teachers. Also you cannot steal others things. Also show appreciation to the staff. For example, don't talk back.

At home, I am not as respectful as I could be. For example, I am not always the nicest to my sisters, but I can improve this by not saying mean things and not talking back.

In the end, I learned that it is very important to be respectful to everybody because if you don't, it will come back to bite you. Also if you show respect to others they will show respect back.

Kylee Lehnert
First Place, Third Grade

Respect to me is counting people in, appreciating people, and treating people the way you want to be treated. These are two of the ways to show respect. Share with friends, family, and classmates, and you should not hit, punch, push, or laugh at others when they're hurt. Some people I look up to for being respectful are my parents because they help me on my projects, homework, and studying for tests.

I show respect to others at home by being appreciative of my family's belongings and property, by not playing and knocking over fragile property and breaking it, so I don't get punished. I can help my sister if she is having trouble with something like a confusing math equation. Another example of being respectful is not intentionally going onto my sister's electronics without asking. If I do, I'll never hear the end of it!!

In addition, to showing respect at home, it is extremely important to show respect at school. First, don't bully others by pushing, kicking or punching. Next, greet people in a respectful way by saying "Hi, how are you doing?" Finally, you can be respectful by listening and following directions from adults and staff.

Some of the times or places I'm less respectful are when I am at home with my sister and we start fighting with each other, and sometimes to my parents when I talk back to them. I can improve upon this by trying to solve the problem and attempting to be nice to my sister and with my parents. I can listen to what they are saying and do it.

In conclusion, being respectful is extremely important because the Golden Rules states "treat others the way you want to be treated," and if you do that to people, they will do it back to you also.

Patrick Watts
Second Place, Third Grade

There are many ways to show respect. Some people may ask why showing respect is necessary, but it makes the world a better place to live in. Respect to me means being kind and treat others the way you want to be treated. Some good role models are teachers, parents, and community help.

The old saying goes, love begins at home, so I like to show respect towards my family members by helping my mom carry the groceries in the house. I also like to clean up my room and the living room.

In addition to demonstrating respect at home, I show respect at school too. Be friendly by sitting with someone who's lonely. I use kind words to people and manners too.

I must admit that there are times when I am not as respectful. For example, when I am at the park or playground I get a little beside myself because I am having fun. I'm always reminded to mind my manners, so I make sure I don't push or shove other kids and keep my hands to myself.

It is important to be respectful in all of your life because if you don't you can get in trouble and others will not respect you. Showing respect even builds integrity and a good name for yourself.

Cameron Fretz
Third Place, Third Grade

In this world, I respect a lot of people from the soldiers in Iran who are fighting for our lives, to police officers and firefighters that risk their lives just to save others in the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We remember those lost with love and respect. We also say the "*Pledge of Allegiance*" to respect our country, the United States of America. But, the person I respect most of all is my mother.

What does respect mean? Respect means to obey the rules such as walking in the halls quietly, listen when someone important is talking, and waiting patiently. There are many other ways to show respect. But, there is one person for whom I show respect. Her name is Jennifer McCutchan.

I don't show respect to her just because she is my mother. I show respect to her because she is a helper to numerous kids in her school. My mom is really special to me because she helps me when I do not understand homework or if I can't read a note on my music book. Also, she takes me many places like my softball practice, parties, special events and she even pays for all the expenses. So, why wouldn't I respect her?

The way I show respect to her is when she says put my clothes away, I put my clothes away. I do not shout and whine—I just do it. I do not have a fit and when she respectfully says, "Please get off of your electronics," I get off of them without fighting with her.

Like I said, my mother is really special to me and the school district by helping people achieve their goals for music and making sure that my sister and I get somewhere safely. She also makes sure that each and every child goes home safely too. My mother is an enormous help to this world. That's why she is really special to me!

My mom is a special, outstanding person whom I admire, truly cherish, and respect. Even if I disobey her at the end of the day, we know we still love and respect each other. According to Steve Hall, "The truest form of love is how you behave toward someone, not you feel about them."

Hailey McCutchan
First Place, Fourth Grade

My special person that I will enter in the contest is my dad. If I had to think of the word respect, the first person that would pop in my head would be my dad. Do you know what the word respect means? Respect means you are kind or nice to someone or something. The following tells you a thing or two about my dad and how my dad is special to me.

My Dad

My dad's name is Mr. Kenneth Lee Simmons but I call him dad. You can call him "Mr. Kenny." My dad is so special in numerous ways. My dad is extraordinary because even if he has cancer, he still takes care of me—even when he doesn't have the strength! Even if he is the hospital, or a clinic, he makes me happy...even if it is a sad time. I admire him for that!

About My Dad

My dad was born on October 19, 1972 in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up in Maryland and moved many times. He has a family business called, "Clayton Farms." He named the business "Clayton Farms" because there was a street in Baltimore named Clayton Street. Clayton Farms is a farm in Denton, Maryland. As I said, my dad lived there until he was 28 years old. My dad is always respectful and kind to my Grami's workers. The employees must also respect my dad's special ways.

Family Comes First

My dad always says, "Family comes first!" He always goes bowling every Wednesday. But, he comes home and says, "Bye" to us before he goes to bowling even if it is a quick visit! He always tries to make a strike for us every night and that makes me happy. To me, my dad is already a "winning machine!"

Marriage

When my dad married my mom, my mom already had two children. My dad loves kids, so he was excited to be a parent. When my dad found out my mom was pregnant, he was the happiest man in the world! Then 5 years later, there were 5 children in the house and he was the best dad ever too! A fun fact is that my dad is going to be a grandpa in about one month. He said the baby is going to be a boy, but, I expect it is going to be a girl. Either way, my dad will continue to be the most special grandpa anyone could wish for!

Daddy's Girl

My dad is so special and respectful to everyone! I told you some of the ways he is special to me. And that is why I am a "Daddy's Girl!" Are you a "Daddy's Girl?" Even if there were a lot of respectful people in the world, I still would pick my dad because he is so very special! Who is special to you?

Quincy Simmons
Second Place, Fourth Grade

Respect means that you look up to someone. If you are respectful, people will follow you if you are in charge and say friendly words even if you don't want to do so. I chose my mom because I love my mom to the end and believe she is one of the most respectful people I know. My mom's name is Julie Osborne and she has raised me to know Jesus and to be respectful to anyone even if they are younger than me. She means the world to me and I never want to be apart from her.

My mom shows value in so many different ways. She loves me during easy and difficult times. She goes to work gladly and helps as much as she can. Her job is a paraprofessional at Smyrna Middle School. She teaches and helps her students by being respectful to them and the other teachers in the building. She comes home and helps me with my homework, signs my Daily Agenda Book, and makes dinner. My mom knows what I like and don't like to eat. So, she usually lets me pick dinner.

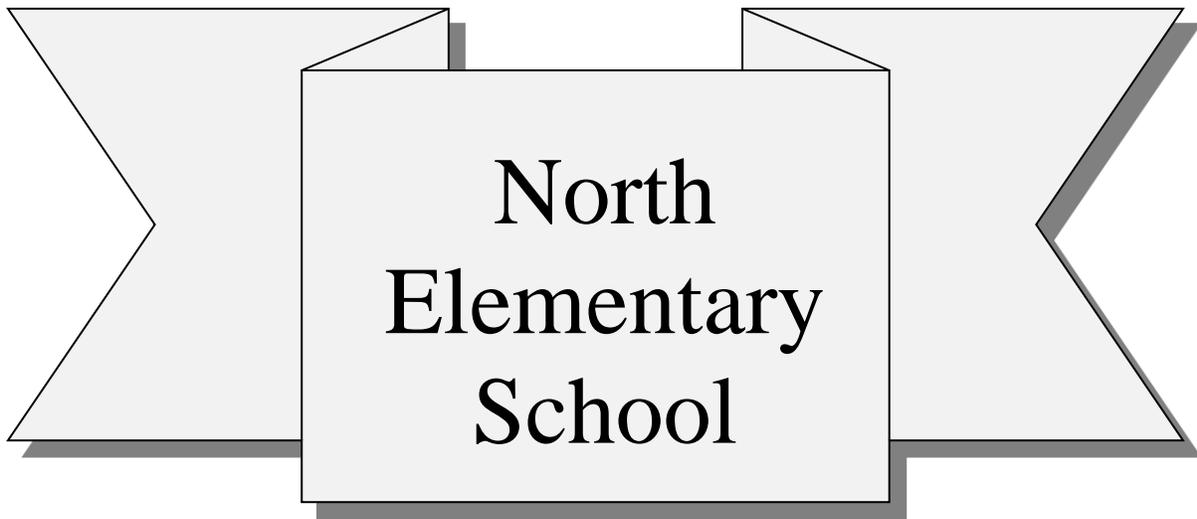
My mom respects her boss and listens to him carefully. She also appreciates my friends by letting them come over to our house. She gives me good advice when I am mad or sad. If school is difficult, she helps me with math or grammar. When I am sick and have make-up work, she helps me and checks my work.

My mom is very gentle and honorable to my teachers, even when they make a mistake. She goes to a lot of the conferences for me including S.T.E.P. and speech. Sometimes she might disagree with other teachers or I might disagree with other teachers, but she sets me straight.

Mom's dad is a Marine and she looks up to him with respect. Once in a while I will say something I shouldn't and she tells me that I "put my foot in my mouth." My mom tells me what I should say to children, middle-age, and seniors who may be sad, mad, sick, and even happy. With mom's help, I may always be respectful.

Most of all, I respect my mother because she respect me, loves Jesus, and gives me hugs. I respect my extraordinary person, my mom because she has given me the necessities in life such as a home, clothing, food, and most of all...love! I think my mom is the best mom any girl could ever wish for in this universe!

Abigayle Osborne
Third Place, Fourth Grade



North
Elementary
School

Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

I respect papa. He keeps me safe from bad guys.

Noah Hyde
First Place, Kindergarten

I care about my mom. I respect her because she works hard and helps me read.

Ava Potter
Second Place, Kindergarten

I care about my sisters. I respect them because they are nice.

Sky Wilson
Third Place, Kindergarten

It is hard to be respectful at school? It is easy for Cheyenne! Cheyenne is special because she helps me with math. She also helps me when I fall. I am so happy that she is my friend.

Kasey Humbertson
First Place, First Grade

Ousmane shows respect when I fall. He helps me up. When I get a boobo, he finds a Band-Aid. When I get bullied, he stands up for me. When I can't find my T-Rex, he helps me find it. Ousmane is the king of respect.

Antoine Gaskin
Second Place, First Grade

Do you know a respectful person? I know a very respectful person. Her name is Mrs. Thorn. She is special because she helps the school. She also helps people who are being bullied. I am happy she is here.

Nathaniel Reed
Third Place, First Grade

The person I respect is my sister, Sarah. Sarah is a nice person to me. She saved me when I almost got burned by an iron. She is super awesome to me. Sarah backs me up when my other sisters bully me and she lets me sleep with her when I get nightmares. She is super funny too. She checks my homework every day. She is respectful, sharing, loving, patient, humble, sweet, cute, and funny. She is an awesome sister to live with.

I really, really want to grow up like Sarah. She is a great role model. I will miss her when she goes to college. She tells me stuff that makes me happy when someone is mean to me at school. I really love her. She helps me when I get shots and did not care if I threw up on her bed. She helps me with words I do not know. I want to grow up like her!

Gabriella Charles
First Place, Second Grade

Have you ever heard of the word respect? Let me tell you what respect means. Mrs. Vance is respectful because she treats me the way I want to be treated. I admire her because she stops bullies from bullying. That is why I admire Mrs. Vance. She cares about me when I am hurt and helps me.

Mrs. Vance also does nice things for me sometimes when I am upset. Mrs. Vance cheers me up. She loves me. Do you have someone you admire or look up to?

Samara Gill
Second Place, Second Grade

My mom is so respectful. Do you want to know why? She treats people how she wants to be treated. She is respectful because she is kind. She is nice because she gave me an I-phone and takes me out to eat on my birthday. She is helpful because she helps me with my homework. She listens to me while I'm talking. This is why I want to be like her.

Naziyah Wilson
Third Place, Second Grade

My dad is the most fun guy in the world! He gets his respect from me because he takes care of my animals, he earns money for my family, and he helped me with my homework once. So, in this story, listen and learn.

One of the reasons I respect my dad is because he takes care of my animals. The animals he takes care of are my 10 or 13 horses, my two dogs, my chickens, and my cats. He gives them all food and water. He also cleans up the horse's stalls, the chicken's coop, my dog's yard, and my cat's garage. He takes care of them every day. That is why I respect him.

The second reason why I respect my dad is that he earns money for my family. He goes to work every day and shoes horses. When he gets home we see he got money! I am very proud of him for working hard for money. That is another reason I respect my dad.

The last reason I respect my dad is that he helped me with my homework once. On math homework 3-6, the questions were very complex. He helped me figure out the answers to 3-6 then it made sense to me. He didn't understand at first but then he got it. So, he helped me with my homework. That is the last reason I respect him.

My respect to my dad is from me because he takes care of my animals, earns money for my family, and he helped me with my homework once. I give him respect by hugging him and telling him I love him. My dad is the best guy in the world!

Reuben King
First Place, Third Grade

This story is all about a special person. I picked Mrs. Smeltzer because she is kind, caring, and beautiful in a way that you cannot imagine. She lives in Smyrna. I first met her when she was new to North Smyrna Elementary School. She came to be our Assistant Principal, but she does a lot more than that, she really does. From this information so far, you would probably think she is a good person. Wait till you read the next paragraph and I tell you how valuable she is.

Mrs. Smeltzer is the right person because she is an awesome listener. For example, she helped me be happy by telling me a happy story and giving me a hug. A lot of times, she solves problems with my friends. She also gives us the right teachers to help us learn. Mrs. Smeltzer gave us Mrs. Wilson and she is the best. Mrs. Smeltzer is the most caring, responsible, kind and respectful person that I know. Sometimes, she can do ten things at a time and still do her job. I'll be the first to admit that she can express her feelings in a way that no one else can. In fact, she can be a little silly, but fun. Meanwhile, the next thing you will read about is why I respect her.

I can't believe this, but she is always right there at lunch. She helps me open food and talks to me when I am a little lonely. If you look at her the way I do, you would see that she helps my friends be nice and not bullies. To end with, she is my role model. Do you have a special person to look up to?

Allison Simperts
Second Place, Third Grade

The person I love and respect is my daddy. He is 40 years old and is as handsome as a dog. He is a hard worker, fun, and solves problems.

The reason why I respect my daddy is because he is hard-working. My dad works in Wilmington and sometimes New Jersey. He works at a port with fruit. He cleans the fruit for other cities and countries. Sometimes he brings fruit home. He works very hard!!!

Another reason why I respect my daddy is because he is a fun daddy. One time he wanted to go on a trip somewhere. He picked Ocean City. It was fun, because when we got there, we changed into our bathing suits and we went to the sand to get in the water. When we were taking our shoes off, people were playing football and volleyball. My three sisters got in the water, too. We got out of the water to go on the rides because I had fallen in and my little sister fell, too. We started walking. We got hungry so we stopped to get fries. Then we went to the rides. It was a long walk. My big sister and I got on this fast and spinning ride. It was fun. My older twin sister and my little sister got on the merry-go-round. Then we got tired and hungry again, so we hit the road. We stopped at a restaurant and we ate outside. I had an awesome time!

Another reason why I respect my dad is because he solves problems. One time my sister and I wanted to sleep with my big sister. So my dad said, flip a coin. I picked heads and my sister picked tails. I won. So I slept with my big sister. I love when he solves problems.

The reason why I respect my daddy is because he is a great dad and that's why I love him very much. I love my daddy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kai Burnette
Third Place, Third Grade

Have you heard of the word respect? Respect is to show special thoughts about someone. You can show respect by helping others in need, listening to others, following the rules, and last but definitely not least, treating others the way you want to be treated. I respect my step dad, Brian, because he gives to the ones who don't give to him. He helps others that don't help him and without expecting something in return. Brian is a kind and respectful person to all.

Brian is someone I idolize because he helps me with my homework all the time. When my mom is not home, he is there to help us. I admire Brian because he helps others when they don't help him. Brian is a valuable person. I appreciate that he is always helping others. Brian buys food and toys for the poor. He also helps me with my basketball and he comes to all my games. I also admire how he tells the truth all the time. He tells the truth to whoever he is talking to. He also helps his community by cleaning trash in parks and he helps the people next door by helping mow their lawns all the time for free.

Another reason I respect Brian is because of his life. When he was a kid, he stuck up for his family all the time. He got all A's and B's. He never got in trouble only if he was helping his family, which he will do until the day he dies. So, respect your family.

Now you know and see why I respect Brian. Respect is cool, fun, and good. Always show respect to yourself and to others. Follow the rules, help others, listen, and treat others the way you want to be treated. One day someone will respect you just like I respect Brian because of the all the things I just said. So always show Respect!

Talaney Pierce
First Place, Fourth Grade

Who do you look up to? Who is your role model? Is he or she a family member or someone in your community? Do you respect them because of what they do? To respect them, you have to think highly of them or have special thoughts about them. I respect a kid in my class, Jack Riley, and this is why.

I respect Jack because he is a very kind and generous person. He is also a loyal and nice friend. For example, we got a new kid in our class, and Jack helped her with our reading, writing, and math systems. He even helped the other Jack with talking when he got his tonsils taken out. Jack C. wrote questions down or what he wanted to say and Jack R. would say it for him. He doesn't just help them, he helps everyone with everything! Those were only two reasons why I respect Jack Riley.

Another reason I respect Jack is because he has gotten all A's his whole life, I think. Also, I'm pretty sure he has only gotten one point off so far this year. I have not seen him tell a lie or not tell the truth. Those are some hard characteristics to achieve and maintain. Because he achieved them, I respect Jack Riley.

Because of those reasons, I look up to Jack Riley. The things he does and has done show why he should be respected. He even shows that he is nice, caring, smart, and doesn't get into trouble. This is why Jack Riley shows and deserves respect.

Dakota Donaghue
Second Place, Fourth Grade

Hello! Today I'm going to tell you about my sister, a very special person to me. I want to write about her because she's helped me with problems that I didn't know how to handle. I'm very thankful for that.

Fun

I think my sister is super fun. She plays Uno with me and everything. Every time that I'm bored, I just text her on my iPod and we chat for a while.

Funny

My sister cracks me up. She's always laughing and making jokes (like my grandpa)! She's so funny, the way that she laughs. It makes me laugh because her laugh sounds silly and she never stops.

Honest

I feel I can trust my sister because every secret and problem I tell her, she doesn't tell anybody. She can tell my parents because I trust them. Also, every time my sister does something wrong, she knows my parents are going to be mad, but she tells them anyway.

Three Languages & Cool

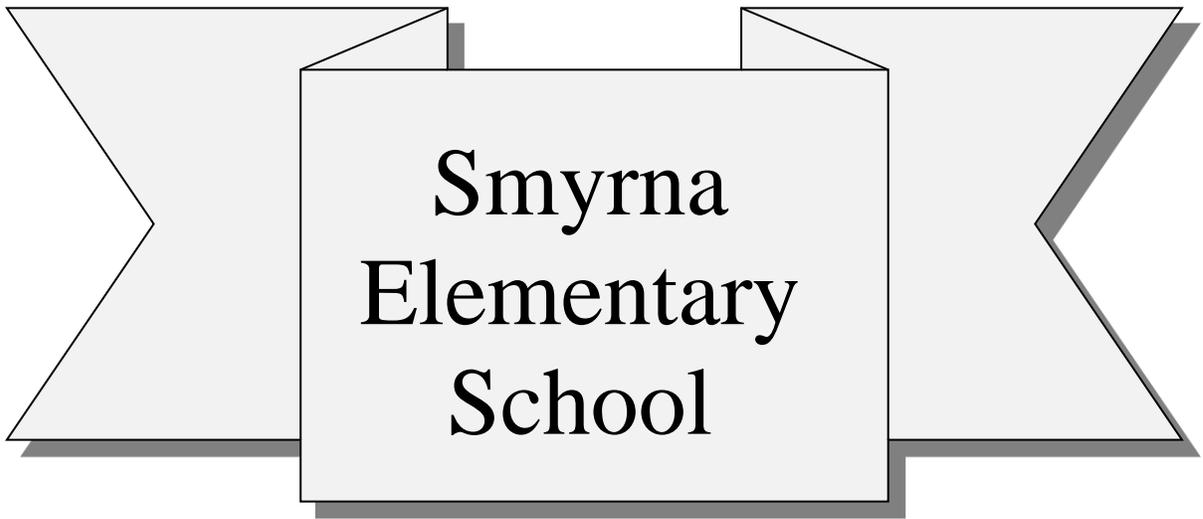
I think my sister is cool because she has a lot of friends and a lot of pretty clothes. She's very stylish. She has so many clothes in her closet and drawers that I had to move my clothes into my dad's closet. Also, I think my sister is cool because she speaks three languages; Spanish, English, and French.

Respectful

I think my sister is respectful because she's loyal, awesome, cool, and a lot of other things. She's intelligent and loves to play with me. So many that I can't tell them all. Also, she does her chores whenever she needs to.

Well, now you know about my sister, why she's special to me, and why I respect her. I hope you like it and know my sister. Now you know why I decided to write about my sister. She's very special to me. I would do anything for her.

Alanis Irizarry-Montes
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

Respect is being kind to others. I respect my mom and dad. They listen to others. They buy me stuff. They help me fix stuff. I show respect by being kind.

Chase Williams
First Place, Kindergarten

I respect my mom because when we go to the store I wait to get a toy. I do not get a toy right away. I have to listen to my parents.

Allison Ganc
Second Place, Kindergarten

Safety Patrol is special to me. They take me to the bus. They show respect when they are on duty. They keep me safe.

Jacoby Spaulding
Third Place, Kindergarten

My daddy is special to me because he makes me food. He teaches me how to ride my bike. He takes me to school. My Dad helps me with my homework. Teaches me how to tie my shoes! He teaches me the days of the week! I respect my Dad because he teaches me how to not hit! He teaches me how to not fight!

Adrianna Navarro
First Place, First Grade

Do you know somebody that is special to you? I do. It is God. God is special to me because he sent Jesus to earth. Another reason why God is special is because he loves us no matter what. I respect God because I love him so much I pray to him every night. I just love him so much I think he is the best.

Caroline Maher
Second Place, First Grade

Do you know somebody that is special to you? I do. It is my mommy and daddy. My mommy and daddy are special to me because they are nice and kind and they support me. My mommy and daddy show integrity and tell the truth. They help me too. Another reason why my mommy and daddy are special is because they take me to my pop pop's beach house. I love my mommy and daddy! Do you? They also take me places.

Griffin Klingmeyer
Third Place, First Grade

My class is having a contest about respect. I want to tell you about my Nana and how she shows respect. First, my Nana is nice to me and she is lovely, loyal, and very smart. She teaches me how to be a better person. She gets me clothes because she doesn't want me to get sick. She cares about other people because she is a pastor. My Nana has been taking care of me since I was an infant! I love her and she loves me because I am her granddaughter! My Nana is very intelligent. She loves to teach because she is so smart. Then my Nana loves me more than I love her. She is beautiful as a butterfly because she is cute. That's why I respect her. When I wake up for school my Nana is always there, or if she isn't, she would be there after school. She takes care of me all the time. That's why I respect her. Finally, she is very kind because she listens, she is patient, she respects other people, and she cooks and sometimes I help cook because I chop, peel, and set the timer for when it's done. I hope you agree with what I say about my Nana. I hope you understand my story.

Naviah Huglin
First Place, Second Grade

How I respect my brother. I respect my brother because he is funny as a clown. I love my brother. Stephen is respectful because he is honest. My brother is sweet as honey. Stephen plays with me at the park. Stephen also plays with my water guns with me. Stephen and I go to my Aunt Searana's house. Then Stephen takes me to his girlfriend's house. Stephen is nice. My brother helps me with my homework. My brother takes me to my mom's house. I hope you like reading about Stephen.

Savannah Krupka
Second Place, Second Grade

I am going to tell you a few reasons why I respect my wonderful art teacher, Ms. Hemphill. Here are two reasons she's special to me. I want to be an art teacher too. Also, she lets me help her if I want to and by the way I always want to help. Okey Dokey. Now here are the reasons I respect her. She loves, loves, loves to help everybody. I'm pretty sure if she knew everybody in the world, she'd help them. Here comes the other reason: I respect her because she listens to our answers if they're long or short. Now you know why I respect my wonderful art teacher, Ms. Hemphill.

Adison Weisenberger
Third Place, Second Grade

Hi, I am going to write about Miss Alexander being respectful. If you don't know what respectful means I will tell you. It means treat others the way you want to be treated.

She helps me feel better about myself. Like when I couldn't remember what I was reading in the story. She told me to write summaries on each paragraph. I did it and I got a better score.

Another way she is respectful is when she gets mad and wants to yell. But she doesn't yell. She doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings. When she does want to yell she takes a deep breath. Then she cools off. After that she is good.

The last way she is respectful is when she uses her manners. She doesn't say, "No, I don't like that!" She says no thank you I don't like that very much. When she helped me get a better score she was respectful because she wanted me to get better. When she gets mad but doesn't yell that is being respectful because she doesn't want anyone's feelings getting hurt. When she uses manners people feel appreciated. Then they feel better about their selves. That is respect.

Breehanna Campbell
First Place, Third Grade

Respect means when you think highly of someone. I respect my dad because he plays with me. My dad is nice and he helps me pick out cool shoes. This is why I'm writing about my dad.

First, my dad plays with me. He plays video games with me like Call of Duty. My dad also plays board games with me like Monopoly. He rides bikes with me on the trails.

Next, he is nice. My dad helps me with my homework like my math and my reading. He colors with me when I have nothing to do and he is a better colorer than I. My dad also does my laundry. He puts it in the washer, and then the dryer, and then he folds it.

Finally he helps me pick out cool shoes. He helped me pick out my blue, grey, and white Lebron James. My dad helped me pick out my blue and white Converse. He also helped me pick out my black Vans with gold spikes.

These are all the reasons why I respect my dad, because he plays with me, he is nice, and he helps me pick out cool shoes.

Aubrey Huester
Second Place, Third Grade

My prompt is about respect. I think respect means to have a relation or a special regard. The person I am choosing is my dad, Daniel.

First, he helps me when I don't know an answer sometimes. He helps me with my homework sometimes. He helps me with knowing what the weather is. He helps me with knowing some of the answers to life.

Next, my dad is very fun! He tickles me but unlike some strong dads he is gentle when he tickles. He has some really funny and weird faces that can make anybody laugh. Anytime he makes a weird, funny, or awkward move or sound he says a weird sorry.

Then, he is super duper nice! Whenever he comes home from work he goes straight to loving on my dog and me. Every night he says good night and I love you about 20 times. When he is off from work he spends as much time as he can with the family.

Finally, my dad shows a lot of respect. That's why I am writing about him. My dad shows respect because he helps me with finding answers sometimes, he is gentle when he's fun, and he is super duper nice.

Dayonna Palmer
Third Place, Third Grade

Do you have someone you respect? Well I do and she's done everything for me. I've known her since birth. My grandma, but I call her mom mom. Sadly she's gone but she's always with me. Let's get started on what she's done for me!

First off she kind of taught me how to sew. I remember it like yesterday. I was at her house, because she was babysitting me, and we were sitting on the couch. We were reading the newspaper comics when I spied a thanksgiving sewing set of a pilgrim that my mom got for me and herself to do. I picked it up, walked over and sat down next to my mom mom. "Do you want to do this?" I asked. "It looks like fun!" I knew she was an expert knitter and sewer so she had to know what to do. It was quite easy. But of course she led my hand.

Another reason is she got me everything. One time I tore my favorite baby doll and she brought me another one the next day. I called it Feety. She also bought cherries too. They were our favorite snack. I remember one day I was playing when she came in with a big thing of them. We sat there and ate them. I dropped one on the floor and it made a stain that's still there! That's how I remember her sometimes.

One last one. She gave me some cooking tips. I remember one day she came over to babysit me and we made Easy Bake oven pretzels. So it wasn't really cooking. But another time, I forget what we were making, we were cutting onions and it hurt so badly! We ran into the kitchen and rinsed our eyes out wildly! That was a well lesson learned!

Can't you see? My mom mom was just made out of LOVE! And she would just do anything. So that's who I respect. Have you thought about who you respect? Who?

Carmella Friel
First Place, Fourth Grade

Why is respect so nice? I'll tell you one reason why respect is so nice because it's someone that cares and thinks of you. That's why I'm going to write about my mom.

When respect and my mom came to thought the first thing that comes to my mind is how she buys my needs. That's why I love and respect my mom. She bought a house for shelter and so we don't get rained on. She also respects that we need a bed so we can sleep comfortably. Most importantly she buys us food every Friday so we can survive. That's a lot of money used just on me so I can survive. That's three reasons she respects me, let me tell you more.

Some other reasons she respects me is that sometimes I have bad days and she tries to cheer me up by taking me to a restaurant or somewhere. She also respects that sometimes I have a rough time doing homework so she tries to help me with it by putting it in a way that I know how to do. She also studies with me so I can get a good grade on my test. So she stops what she's doing and studies with me just so I can get a good grade on a test. That's how much she respects that I need practice so I can get good at it.

Another reason she respects me is that she pays money so I can learn how to keep myself safe when I grow up. She also researches on good schools so she knows I can have safe school days. She also knows that when I get sick I need to see the doctor or get medicine so I'm not sick. So she has to pay money in order to feel better. She also buys healthy foods so we can be healthy. Even though you don't want to eat healthy.

That's how much my mom respects me. So that is why I'm really thankful to have a mom that always respects me and I'll always respect her.

Corey Adams
Second Place, Fourth Grade

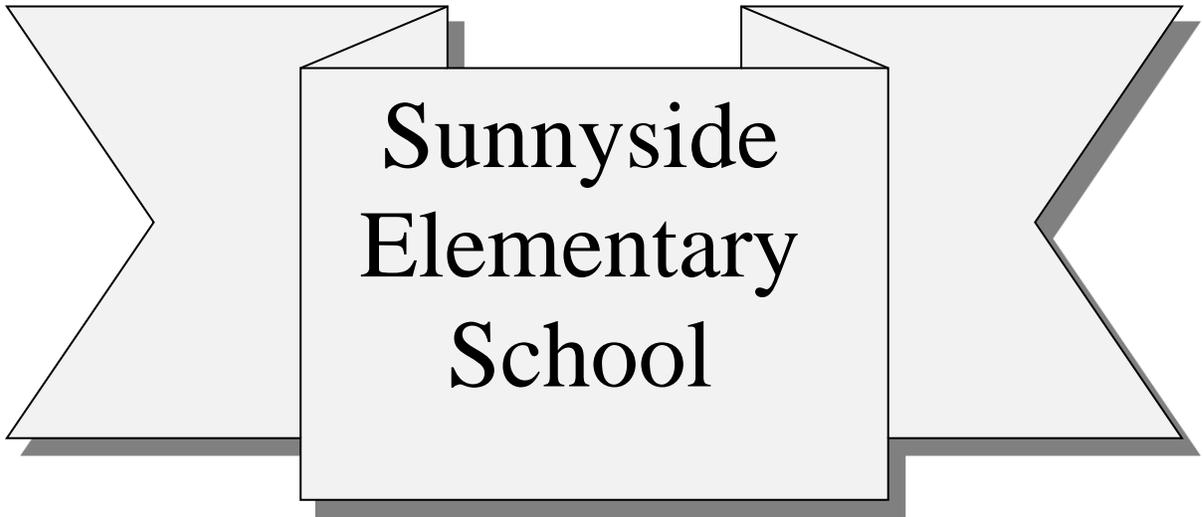
What does respect mean to you? To me it means kindness. When I hear the word respect I think of my Uncle Glen. He is the world's best uncle. He always shows me respect so I'll show him respect too.

From start to finish he was there. He taught me how to write and read. He never lets me down. Even though he's my dad's brother he still tries to make me happy. But then at the age of 36 he was diagnosed with cancer. It was so sad. But he didn't let cancer bring him down, he was always strong.

Every day he would take me to the park. We would sing, dance, and eat ice cream. He even helped me with my homework.

Sadly he died and it was heartbreaking. Even though he died that doesn't mean that I'll never see him. But I will every day in my heart. So every day I go to his grave and talk to him. Even though I can't see him, he can see me. So from then on, I still respect him.

Serenity Hope Draine
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Sunnyside
Elementary
School

Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

Kayla is the best listener. Listening is respectful.

Carmella Vascellaro
First Place, Kindergarten

Phoebe is kind and smiles when I play with her. That is respectful.

Rachel Cain
Second Place, Kindergarten

Kape is respectful. She shares with me.

Beau Rodgerson
Third Place, Kindergarten

Respect is being nice. Patrick is special to me. He is special because he gives me hugs when I am sad. I respect Patrick because I love him. I am respectful by cleaning Patrick's toys.

Isaiah Winslow Hill
First Place, First Grade

Who is the most special person I know? Riri is special to me because she helps me with my homework and plays Legos with me. I respect her because she cares about feelings. I love my cousin Riri!

Mya Lopez
Second Place, First Grade

Who is special to me? Grandma! She lets me play on her tablet. She checks on me. I respect her because she cares about me. She loves me. I love grandmom.

Miles Mosely
Third Place, First Grade

Have you ever been wondering what type of respect has been happening at Sunnyside? Well there's a person that shows me respect and that person is Madeline Spelock. Madeline is always careful of what she does so she puts other people first. She always tells the truth, and always makes stuff fair. She mostly shows that she cares about everybody in the same way like small,

tall, weird, crazy and more. She's very funny and lets people do what they want to do like let people join the game and more. She also knows when to stop being funny and to be funny. If she have ever been too funny she always says, "Sorry." She is as nice as an angel. Most importantly she makes me feel very good inside myself, and she makes me feel like I am truly noticed. She is a very nice friend of mine and she taught me to really care about everybody in the same way. I will always remember Madeline Spelock, and I love feeling that I get being around Maddy. I hope you know someone that shows respect to you the way Maddy shows respect.

Mia Ericksen
First Place, Second Grade

Do you know what RESPECT means? If you do you are lucky. I'm lucky too, because I have a friend who is respectful and her name is Grace Smelzer. If you know her do not worry she is kind and nice. She helps people like she helped me clean my desk when it was time for recess so instead of playing she helped me. She does not just help me she helps lots of people. She does not just show respect to people she shows respect to places and things like toys and craft stuff. She also picks up trash for people even if it is disgusting and gross. Like when I accidentally missed the trash can and she picked it up for me and threw it in the trash can. She respects her family, friends, her teacher Mrs. Gaston, and her classmates. She also asks before she borrows stuff. She lets people borrow stuff also. One time I did not have a glue stick so she let me borrow one of hers. She stands up to people, like she stood up to me and this is how it happened. I got hurt and someone laughed at me and she said stop that to the person who laughed at me. She listens to a lot of people she also listening to her teacher Mrs. Gaston by sitting in her chair right way. I learned from Grace that you can be a great friend by helping people and doing nice things to a person. I try to give respect to everyone like Grace. Are you respectful too?

Georgina Dixon
Second Place, Second Grade

I know a respectful person named Brandon. He does not call out and he follows the rules. Brandon does all of his work and pays attention. He helps people that get hurt. Brandon is probably the most respectful friend I have. He is always a bucket filler. He is always offering respect to people. Brandon does not look at other people's tests. I learned how to be respectful by watching him do all of these things. I learned how to follow the rules at school, be respectful, to share pencils, and partner with a lonely person. I try to always be kind and help others like Brandon.

Kaiden Norris
Third Place, Second Grade

It's great to have a person to look up to! It's great how they respect you and how they are grateful to you. The person I look up to is my awesome dad. I respect him because he always has a good mood, he takes care of me, and he is awesome!

To begin with, my dad has a great personality every day and night. My dad is very funny. He mocks me and makes me laugh like a hyena! He is always available to play hide - n -seek and tag with me. He is always happy and joyful even when there is a problem. Even though he is happy and joyful, he is a little bit serious on the tennis court. He has a straight face and a serious voice. After all he really has a great personality. I don't know how he can do it, but he does a great job!

In addition, my dad is also caring and loving. Whenever I get down or sad on the tennis court, he comes to my side of the court and cheers me up. He gives me warm hugs like Olaf! He never lets me get sad. He always wants me to be happy. He makes sure I get a balanced meal every day. He juices healthy drinks for the family. My favorite drink is blueberry banana! He is the best at caring and loving. He will always be more than my best friend!

Last but not least, my dad rocks at being the best dad in the world! My dad offers to bring home delicious treats from his work. For example, he brings home scrumptious ice cream cones. He hangs out with me when he is busy! Instead of watching his favorite T.V show in the family room on the couch, he sits in my room and does a trivia on different kinds of food. When I have a problem he always helps me out. For instance, he gives me a few pointers on the tennis court. I think that no dad is better than my dad. My dad really is the best dad ever!

As you can see, my dad really shows respect. It is amazing how just one person can be so respectful! I really hope that he stays like this for the rest of his life. I think that if my dad keeps it up, he will be a superhero of respect! After all, my dad really has a great personality, cares and loves me, and is the best dad in the world!

Ava Emrich
First Place, Third Grade

I know many respectful people in my life but, I am thinking of my O.M. coach Mrs. Wightman! Mrs. Wightman is a very unique in her own way! She helps whenever we need her to! She always has a positive attitude whenever and wherever! Mrs. Wightman is special to me because she is one of a kind, she is calm, and she is helpful!

For starters, Mrs. Wightman is a very unique person, in a good way. If you walk by Mrs. Waties room after school on Thus. and Fri. you will notice the door is shut. This is because we get pretty loud but, when the door is shut Mrs. Wightman doesn't care. Mrs. Wightman also, has the most funny jokes ever! One of her jokes was "Why Did Adele Cross the Road" you guessed it "To Say Hello from The Other Side!!!" Mrs. Wightman gets things done! Once she had us do half of the script and build a rocket! (That was a lot of work!) Mrs. Wightman is like a monkey because monkeys are one of a kind!!

Mrs. Wightman is not just one of a kind, she is also calm. I just love how Mrs. Wightman does not get mad when we mess up! This is because she is as calm as a cucumber. I also love how she does not get mad or yell!! Once time we totally messed up and all she did was help us fix it!! I can't believe how fast she gets us settled down. This is because she tells her crazy funny jokes! HAHHAH!!!! I guess she really is as calm as a cucumber!

Lastly, one of Mrs. Wightman's special respectful abilities is that, she is always helpful! Whenever we need help you know Mrs. Wightman will be at your side! For instance, one time I needed help with the hot glue gun and Mrs. Wightman saw that I needed help and she came over to help me right away!!! Also, she can help us get settled down when we get crazy! One time we just couldn't settle down so, she had us start building a rocket. Mrs. Wightman always helps us get ideas when we need help! One time we could not think of anything so she started to try to help us get ideas and thanks to Mrs. Wightman we came up with something really funny! Helping others is really one of Mrs. Wightman's special abilities.

All in all, Mrs. Wightman has really nailed being respectful!! You can really count on her to be a true friend, mom, and O.M. coach! From being one of a kind to being calm to being helpful, Mrs. Wightman is one of the most respectful people I know!!!

Channing Baker
Second Place, Third Grade

Not everyone gets to live with a super hero! My Memom is a real life Wonder Woman! She is a very amazing person who takes care of me and saves the day. I'm extremely lucky to live with my Memom! She is a wonderful person! She is an excellent role model and a wonderful caregiver. I have a lot of respect for her.

I have a lot of respect for my Memom. She has a high regard for me. Every day my Memom is hard-working! She works as a nurse. Therefore, she takes care of me and others. She provides support for me when I need it. She helps me to try my best. I have admiration for her.

Not only do I respect Memom, I think she is a great role model. In fact, she always teaches me not to be a mean person. One time, my memom was in the store, and lady had a lot of things to purchase. My Memom let her in front of her so she could pay for her items. My Memom helped her with the things that she bought. This is a real example of her being a good role model.

My Memom is a wonderful caregiver. She buys what I need. She gives me food every day. She takes me places when I'm good. She's very loving and caring. In fact, my Memom makes the best macaroni and cheese! In this case, when my mom and uncle were young my Memom's macaroni and cheese was a treat!

My Memom is a wonderful grandparent. She is a caregiver and a very good role model. That's why I have respect for her. Without her, I would not be here today. Over all, my Memom is an amazing grandparent!

Samiyah Lightfoot
Third Place, Third Grade

Today, I will talk about a sweet, 10 year old boy in my class named Steven. Steven is a kind, loving, and caring boy who cares about the class, his friends, his teachers, and behavior of the

class so that we don't have to stand on the wall for 10 minutes for outdoor recess or have extra math worksheets for indoor recess. Man that would be BORING! But Steven helps out other students to be quiet and to respect the teacher so we do **NOT** have to skip recess because of THE most **CHATTIEST** class in the whole school. He whispers, "Hey, maybe we should quiet down so we still have recess." To me, he respects like...A SUPERSTAR!

He helps another way by helping his friends out throughout puzzling, confusing situations, like if I have a fight with Natalie (my acquaintance) he would help out and he thinks like a real problem-solver! So, if he can't solve the problem alone, he would just simply ask for help from either Ms. Moore or Mr. Keller. Then, problem solved! He is always relied on by other friends to help out and help others learn valuable lessons they will never forget. Thank you Steven for supporting our class!

Steven also helps out by setting examples so other students can do the right thing, like if the students run out the door to cheer for Ms. Moore's son because he is a superstar or one of Mrs. Massett's readers of the week Steven and I were just sitting, quietly continuing to do our math morning work while the rest of the class was acting crazy, shouting to Tanner "Congratulations!" and "Nice." So from that realistic scene, that proves that he is a leader and a perfect role model.

Steven even helps students out if they are feeling down, like if a student was bullied by another student and that bully actually hurt someone's feelings and goes to immediately tell the teacher or **IF STEVEN** was in a fight, he would ignore the situation and walk away. He **especially** helps to cheer up people if they are pretty much down.

I respect this person because I know it is the right thing to do by treating others like they want to be treated and I will always respect others (including janitors and teachers) and always respond if they ask or request just like Steven.

Haya Hasan
First Place, Fourth Grade

Generous, helpful, and trustworthy are three specific words that pop into my mind when I think about the amazing core value...RESPECT! A special person in my life that shows all of the qualities of respect is my mom. If there were to be an award to the person that is always willing to constantly show respect, I bet it would be my wonderful and amazing mom.

To begin, my mom is generous in many ways. One way she is generous is because when me and my sister's clothes are too small she will not throw them away. Instead she is always willing to give them to people we know or donate them to Goodwill or Salvation Army for other people that may not have enough money to buy their children clothes. In addition, my mom is generous in another way because she gives money to different organizations to help them with their company. For example, one time my mom and I were walking out of the Smyrna Diner we bought a bag of popcorn to help them out and get money to do different things. Another example for my respectful mom is that she is so generous that she lets me and my friends do lemonade stands on different corners of the neighborhood, and she provides the funds for it to get started. The money we get from working the lemonade stand we donate to different people in need of it and give it to hospitals to help people recover from cancer of different illnesses. I wish everybody could be like that.

Secondly my mom is trustworthy in a few ways. One way is that I can tell her anything without having to worry about her telling anybody. Additionally, I can always count on my mom to give me medicine when I am sick. Lastly, she plays all games fair. It does not matter if it is a sport or a board game. She just loves having fun. In sum, I can trust my mom in all situations.

The final way my mom is respectful is that she is very helpful. One way is that she does all the dishes and does all the laundry. Good thing I do not have to do that mess! Secondly, she makes healthy and delicious dinners for my sister, my dad, and myself and she does the grocery shopping. Finally, after all of this she cleans the house and the different rooms...I could not even imagine doing all that stuff!

In conclusion, my mom is a very special person in my life. She deserves nothing but respect in my opinion. She demonstrates the core value of respect through being generous, trustworthy, and helpful. The one person I respect the most is my truly amazing mom!

John Connell
Second Place, Fourth Grade

Sacrifice, compassion, kindness, and integrity...these words all represent Aung San Suu Kyi. She is the person I most respect. It was a little hard to pick her because there are a lot of people I respect, but I realized she is the person I respect the most. Now, if you don't know who she is these are some facts I would like you to know about. Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize. Wow! She also went to Oxford University. Aung San Suu Kyi is an opposition leader in her home country, Myanmar (Man-mar). Also she was placed in house arrest for about a total of 15 years on numerous occasions by the evil Military Government.

Aung San Suu Kyi sacrificed everything including her family life, except for the people of her country, Myanmar (Man-mar). She only accepts it as her choice not a sacrifice. What I mean that she sacrificed her family is that while she was placed in house arrest her husband, Michael Aris, was ill and dying. They let her see him but only if she never came back. Instead she stayed in Myanmar. One thing she said is, "The only real prison is fear and the only real freedom is freedom from fear." This is very true.

Aung San Suu Kyi came to Myanmar because of her ill mother, but when she gets there she realized it is a Military Government. In addition, the Military Government is horrible. For example, Military Government uses the money for themselves not for the people. That causes the people to be poor. This causes some people to sell fakes, which is also bad. So, Aung San Suu Kyi decided to help make it a Democracy Government. Which means it is ruled by the people. This is awesome news!

Aung San Suu Kyi tells a lot of true, extraordinary and inspiring quotes. This is another reason I respect her. For example, she says "We will surely get to our destination if we join hands." This quote reaches my heart every time I read it. Another quote that I love is, "If you do nothing you get nothing." I also learned this in real life because when I study for test, I always get a good grade. On the other hand, if I don't study, my grade will go plop! I would also like to tell you she said, "Since we live in this world we have to do our best for this world." You know it is true because you see organizations that do things to keep the world healthy.

I respect Aung San Suu Kyi because she gave up a lot of things, but she always brought hope to my parent's native country. Aung San Suu Kyi also improved a lot of things. Another reason I respect her is one time I went to New York to see her and give a bouquet while she was visiting. She touched my hand and I got the most extraordinary feeling that I really loved and never felt before. In conclusion, I respect Aung San Suu Kyi because of a lot of reasons. I think I can write a book about the reasons.

Heather Thwin
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Clayton
Intermediate
School

Grades 5 and 6

Do you know what respect is? Well, this person could definitely demonstrate it for you, Will Knight. Respect is a feeling that someone is good, valuable and important. This means that they should be treated in an appropriate way. A person that deserves a high level of respect is Will Knight. Will is a great role model when it comes to respect. I know this because he is humble, hard-working and caring. Will is respectful to his coaches, teammates, and even to little kids that want to be like him when they grow up.

One reason I respect Will is because he is humble. One time after the championship game, I got to shake his hand. My friend, Derek, had the heart to say, "Hey Will, you're going to go to a good college someday." Will took that to mind like he was his parent. Will is such a big person in Delaware. People always say, "Will, you're the best football player ever!" But Will is different from other players. They would say, "Yeah, I know I am," but Will doesn't say that. He would say thanks because he doesn't like to think that way about himself. He doesn't like to talk like that because he is humble. If he talked like that, he would be considered cocky, and that's not him!

Will is also hard-working. One time I went to his house because my friends are his brothers. Will was watching his runs from the previous game film to see what he could do to improve. He works hard at practice to fix his mistakes and become a better player. You would know that Will is hard-working because to be as good as him, you have to push yourself. As he told me, "You're not born a star." All year, Will wore a knee brace. Players from other teams would take shots at it and Will knew that. Will did not quit when someone took a lucky shot and he was down hurt. He took one play off, and then he was back on the field. Will isn't just hard-working on the field; he is off the field as well. He perseveres in school to get good grades and stay out of trouble.

Will is definitely caring because if you knew him personally, he would treat you so well like you're his best friend. Will cares about his teammates and family. I know this because he always wants his family together. Will cares about us because he is always at our Pop Warner games, no matter how far away they are. We all care about him too.

In conclusion, respect means admiring a person who is a wonderful role model. Will is a humble, hard-working, and caring person. Everybody that knows him knows that he has all of these characteristics. Even if you do not know him, Will proves his character on the field. If Will doesn't demonstrate respect, I don't know who or what can. GO WILL KNIGHT!

Nolan Fretz
First Place, Grade 5

Who do you think shows respect? Do you show respect to others? I think many people all over the world show respect, but in this piece I am going to write about my grandmother. Her name is Peg Lapiska. She is respectful not only to me, but to her church, family, friends, co-workers, kids, grandkids, and she would even welcome a stranger. Three ways that really stick out to me is that she is hardworking, supportive, and also that she is selfless. The first one I am going to spotlight is how she is supportive.

She has been so supportive in so many ways if I named them all I think it would take a couple days! One, example is that when my grandpa was in the Marines and could be gone three to six

months at a time, he would be gone holidays and was away from his loved ones birthdays an special moments. So she had to support his decisions to be in the Marines even if it was hard for her and her family. She never ceased to love or care for him, even today after she retired and after he retired from the Marines she still cares for him in an amazing way that I will get to later. But overall what I am try to say is that she was supportive and humble towards many people.

The second trait I am going to write about is how hardworking, outgoing, and strong she is mentally and physically. She is hard working in various different ways. For example, when my grandfather was away for long periods of time she had to keep the house clean, take care of my mom and aunt and still be there for them, take care of a dog, and work a job, which was a volleyball coach. She was a pastor's wife so that most likely meant that she had to have some responsibility of the church. Trust me; I am a pastor's daughter so I would know! She also had to cook meals, wash dishes, and teach my mom and aunt volleyball! And to be honest, I have a very high level of respect for her. I know that I would fall apart if I had to do what she did.

Another one of her respectful traits goes right along with what I just said. She was selfless in all the possible ways. Even today she cares for my grandfather. He has leukemia and it's not severe, but once he was sick for about a month, so she had to care of him then as well. She thinks of others above herself and has other people get what they need before she does.

Hardworking, supportive, and being selfless are only three ways that she shows respect, although she does show it in many more ways. I am very blessed to have her as my grandma and I am amazed by all of her accomplishments!

Karalyn Osborne
Second Place, Grade 5

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a hero in someone's eye? Respect is a way of showing someone you admire them. Many believe respect is an important core value. My popop shows a huge amount of respect! He is encouraging, kind, and a good leader to others. He is my hero!

My popop is a very encouraging person. Every time I come home from school and show him my grades he tells me he's proud and wants me to do my best, so one day I can be a lawyer or judge. I tell him every day I will do my best and I will focus in school. Then he smiles and tells me he loves me!

My popop shows a lot of kindness. He stepped up and took care of my siblings and me when we didn't have the best guardians watching us. He makes sure to take us to the doctor's office and is always reminding us to brush our teeth. My siblings get annoyed by it sometimes, but we know it's just because he loves us. We can always count on my popop because he is always there for us when we need him. He is very kind.

My popop is a good leader to others. He always remembers to treat others the way he would want to be treated. Whenever we're at a restaurant he uses good manners and leaves a big tip. Coming out of a building he makes sure to hold the door for others. I love my popop, he is respectful!

Respect is a way of showing someone you admire them. Many believe respect is a good characteristic to have as a person. My popop shows it in many ways. He will always be my hero. My popop pushes me to do better and motivates me every day. My popop has had a big impact on me and still continues to inspire me! I love my popop!

Jade Hendricks
Third Place, Grade 5

While most only see him as a friend, co-worker, church security guard, or acquaintance, I see my father as a hero. Respect is having a high regard for someone, often who has reached a high achievement. Therefore, a person I highly respect is my Dad, who is not only a retired army pilot, but has raised 4 kids and made it through rough times.

Whenever I was at my grandparent's house, I would always see military pictures of my dad and uncle. When I asked my dad how old he was when he joined, he said, "I signed up when I was 17, but didn't start until I was 18." This proves that he has wanted to defend this country from when he was a teen. Since then, he piloted a plane to many countries, such as Iraq. That alone makes him a very respectable person, but there is more.

Another respectable aspect of him is he has raised 4 kids, of which one is me. If everyone was at home, you could see it, but that rarely happens. Whenever my mom is working or sleeping, he goes out of his way to drive us where we need or want to go. That is yet another reason he is a respectable person. So, as you can see, one of the things he is most dedicated to is his children.

My last reason he is a respectable person is he persevered through tough times. In yet another case of asking him, this time about his high school experience, he told me, "I had a miserable time. My parents weren't very supportive of me and I only had a few true friends." At a point where many people would act out with crime and vulgar substances, my father pushed through and didn't give up, something that many would not do.

Respect is having a high regard for an achieved person, and my dad is a perfect example of a respectable person. He is dedicated to his kids, his work, his country, and has recovered greatly from rocky roads on his road of life. Someone's hero may be Superman, Batman, or Iron Man, but mine is my dad.

Rebecca King
First Place, Grade 6

Merriam Webster's Intermediate Dictionary's version of respect is "worthy of high regard; regard of courtesy." But respect is so much more than that. Respect is a word that represents many important qualities in a person, such as care, or humor in hard times. One person mainly sticks out in my mind when I hear the word respect. My pappy. He takes pride in what he does for a living, has a wonderful sense of humor, and shows us the sheer importance of respect and how to effectively establish it in our lives.

Pappy shows us several things; from manners to keeping a positive attitude. During his younger years, he worked on his family's farm. This is where he developed respect, which he passes down to me and my siblings. Even more compelling, he treats everyone with the same amount of respect, no matter culture, background, or race. Also, whenever we make a mistake, he's never judgmental. I can always count on him as someone to talk to, or a "safe place."

My Pappy also has a wonderful humor. In a conversation with him, laughs are guaranteed. But he also has a serious side which creates a great balance. Even though he had a heart surgery, he always puts a positive spin on it. For instance, he once said the stitch marks were a racetrack, and my brother took a toy car and played with him. Usually, he'll throw a funny joke our way. He comes up with goofy names like "Busterd" for our dog, Buster. He goes out of his way just to put a little more joy in our lives.

In addition, my Pappy also takes pride in what he does for a living. Throughout his life, he's had several occupations, but truck driving would be the main one. During his trucking career, he traveled to all of the states, except Alaska and Hawaii. He has also traveled to Canada. If Pappy was to write a book, the first line would be: "If you're going to do something, do it right the first time." As a result, my Pappy works hard and you can count on him to get the job done right.

Respect is many things, such as peace, humor, fairness, and self-worth. To reemphasize, my Pappy has exceptional humor, passes down respect, and also takes pride in the way he provides for our family. In short, my Pappy demonstrates every core value, but demonstrates respect the most.

Savanna Evans
Second Place, Grade 6

"Respect is a two-way street, if want to get it, you've got to give it" – R.G. Risch. Someone who is respected is cared about by many people and had usually done good to earn that respect. Respect has to be earned by showing respect, being heroic, selfless, etc. People these days don't pay as much respect for people in a high position, unlike many years ago. I really respect George Washington because he is trustworthy, selfless, and determined.

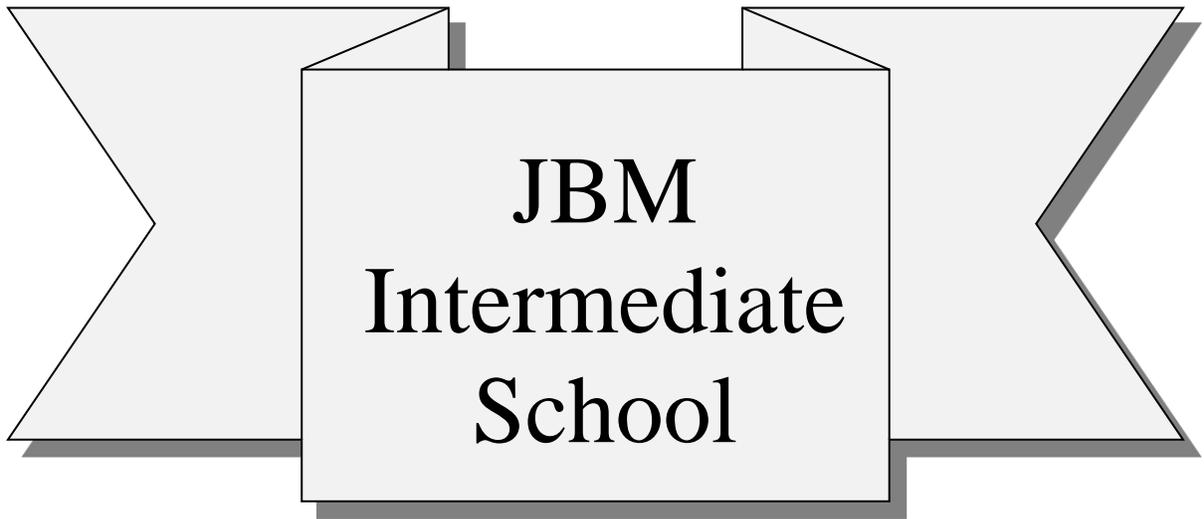
One of the traits that make George Washington very respectful is being trustworthy. People can tell he is trustworthy because the people of America trusted him to be the first president of the United States and serve for two terms. This proves that he is very well respected for being trustworthy because people counted on him. Another reason why he is admired is because today, people still respect him and are grateful for his leadership and bravery. If he hasn't been a good leader back then, then things may not be the way they are now, which is why George Washington is still respected today.

Another trait that makes people admire George Washington is his selflessness. One way he proved his selflessness is by agreeing to be a commander for the colonists' sake. Being a commander is hard work especially if you're doing it for a cause. This is one reason why George Washington is admired and respected for because of his selflessness. He also showed himself being selfless by fighting for the colonists' freedom and not just for himself. He is selfless and that means he thought of others and not just himself.

The last thing that makes George Washington is his determination. He is very determined because he didn't give up and persevered when America was struggling with Britain. George Washington was in the Revolutionary War for 8 years and didn't give up once. He also proved his determination by defending America even in its harshest times like winter or when they're running out of food and supplies. It takes a lot of perseverance and determination in times like those, and that's what Washington has.

I respect George Washington because he is trustworthy, selfless, and determined. He was trusted by the people of America, fought for their freedom, and persevered in the Revolutionary War. Today, many people still respect him and are grateful for leadership. He also fought for the colonists' freedom and not just for himself and didn't give up when they were struggling. So remember, "Respect is a two way street, if you want it you've got to give it" – R.G. Risch.

Leandro Villanueva
Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 5 and 6

Who do you respect the most? Is it someone famous or a friend? Well, I know this may sound pretty basic, but the person I respect the most is my mom. Yeah, I know what you're thinking, Wow, lots of people are writing about their mom. What makes this essay so special?" The answer is it's who my mom is and what she does. She cares about others before herself, she is very hard-working and smart. I think my mom is who I respect and admire the most.

One reason I respect my mom is because she is caring. She cares about how people feel and what they need/want. (Well she cares about what you want MOST of the time.) After all, she's my mom. She is supposed to be caring. But, it's the way she's caring. She never acts as if she is forced to be caring she just IS. When my little sister says she (my little sister) is hungry, my mom literally JUMPS to action! From my perspective, I think that's what a caring mom would do.

My mom is also hard-working. She is a nurse and works really hard at her job. She pays the bills and has enough time to spend with her family. She never gives up. Even when she is so tired, she manages enough energy to care for others. She is the perfect role model if I want to persevere. But this essay is about respect so I'll stick to that.

Last, my mom is smart. She is full of stories about when she used to live in Haiti. They are all about when she was growing up. She is smart with her money; never spending it on useless stuff that will upset her family. She saves her money so my brother, sisters and I will one day go to college and get a good job. Without her (mom) my future would be at stake.

See why I respect my mom the most? She's caring, hard-working and smart; the perfect role model on who to respect. But what is about her that I love the most? She's my mom. She's with me through thick and thin, in a respectful way.

Farrah Charles
First Place, Grade 5

Do you have that one person in your life that you respect? Well you may be wondering what respect is. Respect is when you admire someone and you think they are a really great person. Today I'm going to tell you about my Coach Carolyn who I respect the most.

You may be wondering why I respect her. There are many, many, many reasons that I respect my Coach Carolyn. And I am here to tell you about all her characteristics. Now, one reason I respect her is because of how considerate she is. I think she is considerate because she is always kind and considerate to everyone around her. Next, she always makes sure she can make it to practice with the cheer team. Also, she makes sure everyone on the team has a chance to shine in the routine.

Another great characteristic she has is how good she is with people. I say this because if you're feeling down, she doesn't ignore you. She talks to you about it. Next, she always helps everyone on the team with their tumbling. And she always pays attention to the people who want to see what they've been working on. Plus, she always talks to moms about practices and competitions so they are not confused.

I also respect and admire her because she has a job that I would want to do someday. That job is a cheerleading coach. I think she is great at that job because she choreographed my cheer team a great routine that won us first place in our division at a competition. I would want to be a cheerleading coach because it makes me happy. She is also very good at that job because she makes sure everyone has the routine and they aren't stuck.

So who's that one person in your life that you respect? Is it your mom or dad? Or maybe even your grandma? Whoever it is, make sure you give respect to other people and they respect you back. That is the first thing I make sure I always do when I'm around my Coach Carolyn.

Faith Starchia
Second Place, Grade 5

What is the meaning of respect? The Macmillan Dictionary for Students says respect is "regard for or appreciation of the fundamental worth or value of someone or something; respect for life." Not that you know the meaning of respect, who do you respect? I have an idea of who I respect, and his name is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK). Why do I respect Martin Luther King Jr? Well, I have a lot of reason why I respect him. Let me tell you why.

Martin fought through a tough time in life. When Martin was a little boy, he didn't get a good education. It was hard for him. But throughout his lifetime when he was growing up he had some adult people and some other black or some white knew him. Some other whites called Martin Luther King's house and said terrible things to him in person and on the telephone. But the scariest thing that he fought through was the time his house was bombed without warning. Somebody just suddenly bombed his house. But nobody got injured.

Martin did something brave. He stood up for other people. He went to Chicago in the summer of 1965 to protest against the bad conditions in black schools. Another thing he did was that he protested against segregation.

Finally, the last reason why I respect Martin is because he puts other people first. What I mean by that is other people got put in jail because they were protesting for Martin. While they were in jail he said, "You will get an education in jail." Also to show that he puts others first is by giving them a speech that "discrimination must end forever so other blacks will have peace."

That's why I respect Martin Luther King. Remember what respect means and maybe you could write about who you respect one day.

Denae Smith
Third Place, Grade 5

Respect comes in many forms. It could be a small action considered respectful. It could be always saying yes when an authority asks you to do something. A respectful person is someone you can look up to, someone you can trust and follow. I'm writing about an amazing student who has shown respect to peers and teachers time and time again. This student is an amazing

role model. This student is a student who doesn't only show one core value but all core values. This student is Robert Mace.

Robert although a student is an amazing student, some people think that only adults can be respectful, when in reality children have to respect adults. Robert is always on track with his school work, he never loses his temper, nor does he ever get in trouble. Even if Robert were annoyed by a teacher he sure doesn't show it. He is also a good leader and teacher. He turns in his work, with great grades, he never listens in on people's conversations, he never gets involved in bad situations, and he never puts a student down. He's one of those students who never gets in trouble, how you might ask? Because he's always reading a book. He couldn't even make a situation with a risk of getting in trouble. I used to get in trouble a lot until I started talking with Robert; I realized that there is no point in disrespect, and that following him would be a great choice. If you're a bad student but you're tired of getting in trouble then you should hang with Robert. He's kind and responsible, truthful and **respectful**.

Some of Robert's best traits are his: compassion, responsibility, humor, and intelligence. It's all these things that factor into why I chose to write about him. You can trust him. He's a genius in my opinion. If you were to get stuck on a paper Robert would help you obviously after asking the teacher. Literally right after I wrote the previous sentence, Robert got up to help a student with their essay. He never even talks to students disrespectfully, even though most students these days think that they can talk to their friends like that because their friend isn't an adult. Once more Robert has asked the teacher to go help another student. Now if you can't see the respect in this event you are not respectful. He **asked** the teacher, most students would just walk up to the student without permission.

It's not hard to think of all the positive actions Robert does that make him respectful, It can be summed up to one sentence, everything about him. I hope that the readers of this story will find someone that they look up to, and if you can't then be respectful and you can be your own role model.

Lawrence Tyrell
First Place, Grade 6

The definition of respect is "A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements." In my opinion, someone I look up to as a great hero and whom I have high expectations which they always surpass. There are many people in my life I respect, but my mother is the one person who has my highest respect. She is very kind and generous and knows exactly what to say and when to say it; she has inspired me to do so much. All of these qualities are why I respect my mother above all other I know.

I hold a great deal of respect for my mother and all of her qualities but these are perhaps the best. I respect my mother's strength and she shows a great deal of strength every day. She works with stubborn patients every day who can be overbearingly rude and she stays strong, and she comes home every day, obviously a little annoyed, but she really never lets them get under her skin. I admire my mother's humongous amount of compassion she will greet strangers she just met with her best of smiles. Not much can compare to her loving heart. My mother is one of the smartest people I know and, she has gotten her masters and is a working pharmacist. She goes far in one day from managing how all patients need a drug on a weekly basis to helping with my

homework. I absolutely love my mother's diversity and greatness. These are one of her biggest strong points and each and every day she becomes greater accomplishing more and more goals over and over. Lastly, I praise how my mother will lead my family every day to success. She is a bold leader who can achieve so much.

If the definition of respect is to be believed, than I truly think my mom has my highest respect. She proves this by showing me her abilities of strength, compassion, brilliance, greatness, and leadership. Though like all people she is not without flaws. But that doesn't diminish my respect for her at all. I couldn't have chosen any one better for this essay. When I'm in need of help, I know who to call, to lean my head on their shoulder, or just have a nice talk to .In conclusion I love and respect my mother.

Jordan White
Second Place, Grade 6

It is a very good thing to have someone that you highly respect around in troubling times. If you were wondering about the definition of respect I will give it to you. Respect means a deep feeling of admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. My dad has many abilities, qualities, and achievements that are worth to be admired. This is why I will write about him in this essay.

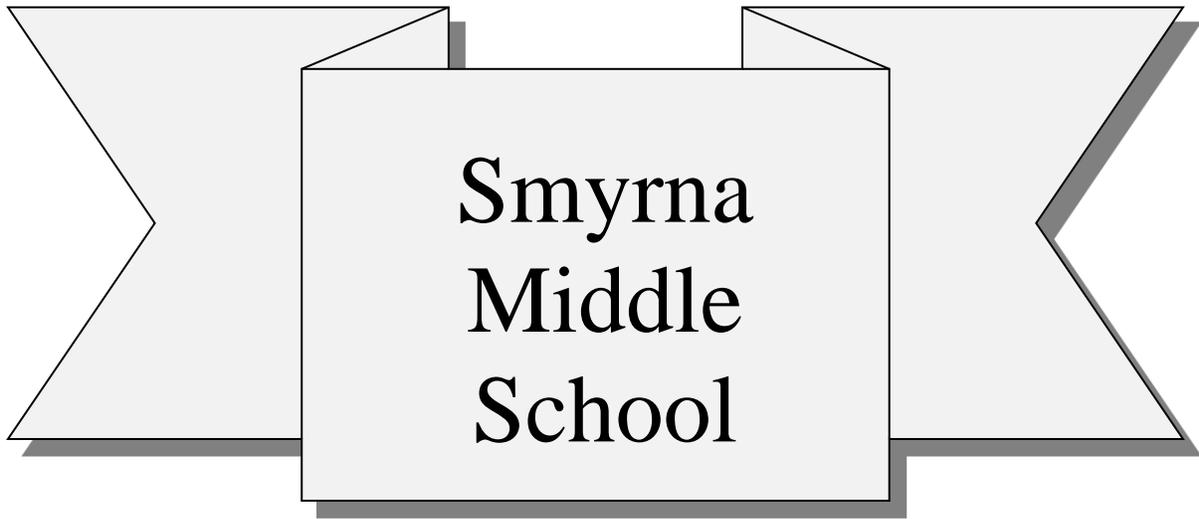
One admirable ability he has is to give motivational speeches in times of need. When I need inspiration I go to him. He will talk about how I need to persevere, keep on trying, or never give up. He says that I can do anything as long as I put my mind to it. All of these sayings such as "do it right the first time so you don't have to do it again" have carried me a long way. Such as, writing this glorious essay for my dad.

A very important quality my dad has is returning the same respect people give him. He is kind to everyone, regardless of their behavior. He is a very likable person, and he can strike up a good conversation almost anywhere at any time. That is definitely something to look up to. My father uses his likable traits to help bring joy to people's hearts when they are feeling blue. These things make him a very respectable person.

One of the more crucial traits that my father has is his honesty. An example is when my brother was about to go to school with his shoes backwards my dad kindly let him know. He could have said nothing and let my brother make the fool out of himself, but he didn't. He is a constructive critic. He will give his honest opinions to help people improve. This is one of the finer points of his character that I appreciate.

In conclusion, I would like to say that having a person you respect can be useful. This has been proven in this essay I have written. My dad has helped me in every part of my life. If anyone deserves my respect it is him.

Oslene Vanganbah
Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 7 and 8

Out of everyone I respect, for all sorts of reasons, the person I respect the most is my father. It isn't because he buys me clothes, or fixes me food. I respect him because of what he does for a living, and how others treat him because of that. My father is a Captain at the New Castle County Police Department (NCCPD) and he gives me, and plenty of others, quite a few reasons to respect him. Respecting my father is easy for me because he strives for excellence.

It's challenging to work as a police officer, but it's much harder if no one respects you. My father earned the respect of his co-workers by being a good listener to those who came to him for help. He tries to teach people to learn from their mistakes, to realize what they did wrong so they can correct it, and avoid it next time. By my father helping others and earning their respect, he helped me realize how good it feels to be respected.

It's hard to earn someone's respect and a lot easier to lose it. One reason I respect my father is because of how hard he works. Becoming a police officer is difficult. He had to go to college and then the police academy where he had to be strong-willed in order to graduate and start his career at NCCPD. Along the way, he had to possess certain qualities in order to rise up to become a Captain. He had to learn from his mistakes and always do what was right, not only for himself, but for innocent people who needed justice. After graduating from the police academy, my father rose through the police ranks through the years until he became a Captain. It took hard work and dedication to get where he is now and that made me try for excellence, just like my father.

In addition to his police job, my father will also sometimes teach college courses at Wilmington University. There, he teaches college students about the history of Criminal Investigation. My father earned the respect of his students by educating them about the changes in Criminal Investigations throughout history. They respect him because he takes the time to show them the importance of the changes. The way my father communicates with his students, and how he gets them to respect him makes me respect my father even more.

My father has worked hard in order to get where he is today, and that has made many people respect him, but I believe I respect him the most. My dad managed to show me that he deserves my respect when he wasn't even trying. By working hard, and getting other people to respect him, my father has taught me valuable lessons that I'll use and cherish for the rest of my life. By doing that, for so many people, my father has earned my respect.

Gabrielle Treadwell
First Place, Grade 7

Respect can mean a lot of things to a lot of people. To me, respect means to feel a deep relationship with someone or something. According to Google, respect is defined as "a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something because of their abilities, qualities, or achievements." My mother is a person whom I respect because of the special qualities she has. I respect my mother because she is honest, loyal, and caring.

To be honest means to tell the truth. It is important for people to be honest because it means they can be trusted when they tell you something. If you are honest it will also mean that people will respect you. I know my mother is honest because of how she acts in situations where she COULD have lied. For example, one day when I was very little, my brother stole candy from a

grocery store. We were already heading home when my mom realized that he had taken a pack of gum without paying for it. It probably would have been easier for mom to go home, but she made him go back and return it. We all learned a lesson about honesty that day.

To be loyal you have to be committed to something or be faithful. My mother is nothing if not loyal; she is loyal to her family and friends. My mother is loyal because she is always there for my family even if she is very busy. My mother works full time, has a small part time private practice and does lots of work with the church, but she is always there for us. My mother is loyal to her friends because she has friends that she has known since she was 4 years old. You have to be pretty loyal to have friendship that lasts for over 30 years. Also, my mother is very devoted to the clients she helps at work. She recently said that if she won the Powerball, she would still go to work because she is committed to the children she works with.

To be caring means to display a genuine concern and compassion for others. My mother is always caring for different people in her life. For example, she always takes good care of my father, my siblings, and me. My mother shows us that she is caring by feeding us and buying clothes for us. She wakes me up for school by saying, "Good morning, Little Prince." She always makes sure I know she loves me before I get on the bus. She also lets my sister's friends come over and hang out at our house. When my mom is able, she feeds them too. My mother also cares for her clients. For example, one time one of her client's house burned down and she went out on her free time and made sure this family had food and clothes.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I think that I am pretty lucky to have the mom that I do. She has always been someone that I think highly of because of all of the ways she contributes to her community and her family. Even though I am taller than my mom now, she is still someone that I will always look up to. My mom's honesty, loyalty, and caring personality help make my mom the most well respected woman that I have ever met.

Brandon Williams
Second Place, Grade 7

According to Google, respect is defined as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something because of their abilities. In my opinion, respect can mean many more things than that. It's more than just being kind and polite as most people may think. It's accepting people as they are, valuing each other's point of views, and is not only shown through behavior, but it can also be felt. Some people in my generation do not show enough respect as they should and that has to be changed. I have dedicated this essay to the real superheroes: paramedics, who are out to save a life no matter what the situation.

Paramedics are the individuals who care for the sick and injured in emergency medical settings. In rough weathers or dangerous circumstances they are always there as soon as possible, and that is what gains my respect for them. In order to be a paramedic it requires great determination and bravery. They are put in a situation where your life can depend on them doing everything they can to protect it, so we should respect them, as they have so much respect for us.

I admire paramedics because their job can be very stressful and physically strenuous. They have to deal with a lot of greatly dramatic cases sometimes, but that doesn't stop them from doing everything they can. They can be put under a lot of pressure to perform the right procedure in a

quick amount of time. They keep patients going while being transported to a hospital. It is a very brave and technical profession to take on, but to me it's highly important and worth it.

There have been cases where people have threatened to attempt suicides. A paramedic I know has had to talk people out of suicides. Many paramedics are often volunteer firefighters too, which is another reason to look up to these people. Paramedics are not only the people working on the person from an incident in the ambulance, but they are also the people who drive the ambulance. The drivers need to have good skill in driving in order to quickly get to the location they are heading to and to be safe while doing it.

To me there is no one true definition of respect. Our personal definitions of respect are influenced by our personality, emotions, preferences, and cultural context. I feel that respect has to do with accepting people as they are, valuing each other's point of views, and is not only shown through behavior, but is something that is felt. I have devoted this essay to all the paramedics of the world because of all the gracious, brave and righteous things they do.

Amanda Pagano
Third Place, Grade 7

Respect can be defined as many different things. "A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements," as stated in the Oxford Dictionary. It can also be defined as "esteem for a person," as said on Dictionary.com. There are people all around us who match these definitions. Three major areas where these people can be found are in history, one's personal life, and literature.

Susan B. Anthony is a person in history who is worthy of respect. She was a feminist and a women's rights activist. She was born in 1820, and raised in a Quaker family, so she believed in equal rights, thus she opposed slavery. After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in temperance, a social movement against the consumption of alcohol. Anthony became involved with the women's rights movement in 1852. Susan B. Anthony did multiple things deserving of respect, even when she was verbally abused and opposed. She became very involved with women's suffrage, speaking out across the country. Anthony continued her work until her death in 1906. Susan B. Anthony dedicated her life fighting for her rights and the rights of others, therefore earning respect.

Two other strong, determined, and also independent women I know come from my personal life. My mother and my Aunt Kim are two of the most respectable people I know. My mother, Tiffany Gaston, is the reason I am who I am. She is one of my best friends and I can tell her anything. She is kind and I could not imagine what my life would be like without her. She is such a respectable woman because she raised my brother and I, by herself, for the majority of our lives. She supported us at a very young age. She got help from family, of course, but she generally did it alone. My Aunt Kim is another person in my life very worthy of respect. She is my great-aunt, and great she is. She cofounded New Belgium Brewery in 1991. The first New Belgium Brew was brewed in her basement by her husband, Jeff, and she was the bottler, sales rep., marketer, distributor, and financial planner. But, it is not just the fact she became so successful that makes her a respectable person, it is the way she runs her successful business. New Belgium is one-hundred percent employee owned and it is extremely eco-friendly. In 2014, New Belgium was number seven in "best places to work" according to Outside Magazine. My

Aunt Kim has been such an inspiration to me by showing me how something small can turn into something that has a marvelous and vast impact on the world. I hope to one day be able to emulate the strength and independence these two women have demonstrated and become just as respectable.

Severus Snape from the Harry Potter Series is someone in literature who warrants respect. Snape was a teacher at Hogwarts, head of Slytherin house, and for a short time, headmaster. Although not mentioned until the last book, Severus Snape was in love with Lily Potter, Harry's mother. And although J.K. Rowling portrayed him as evil in the first few books, he really saved numerous lives without the reader's knowledge. Severus Snape was working as a double agent for Professor Dumbledore. He risked his life every day pretending to be a death eater (one of Voldemort's followers) when he was really giving Dumbledore information. Snape never bragged about the numerous times he had saved Harry's life, he was very modest. No one, except for Professor Dumbledore knew Snape was working as a double-agent. No one, except for Professor Dumbledore knew that Severus Snape was always putting others before himself. Snape saves Harry Potter's life in every single Harry Potter book and according to Harry himself, "He was probably the bravest man I ever knew." People who deserve respect possess multiple qualities, and bravery is definitely among them.

Respect is a very important quality that every person should possess and give to others. It is found in people everywhere, whether they are someone from history, one's personal life, or from literature. Respect should be a way of life and should be granted to anyone worthy. We, as people, are all equal. No one person is better than another, therefore, we are all worthy of respect.

Leila Sebastian
First Place, Grade 8

Aliq Ice says, "Respect is earned. Honesty is appreciated. Trust is gained. Loyalty is returned." Honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty earn you respect. What is respect? Respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. A person worthy of respect may treat others with the utmost reverence, shows devotion, and is altruistic.

Every person deserves to be treated with reverence. To be someone who treats others in this manner, one would treat everyone equally, no matter who they are. You have to be compassionate and treat others with dignity. George Washington displays this quality. He believed in everyone in his life. 10 Leadership Lessons From George Washington claims, "Belief is a choice before it is an emotion. Believe in your children. Believe in your wife. Believe in your family (page 1)." Washington believed in everyone, including his men. He respected what they chose, and what they wanted to do with their lives. This article also states, "Washington treated the lowliest private with the dignity and respect he afforded a visiting dignitary from Philadelphia. How we treat service personnel, subordinates at work, people on the telephone, the guy at the garage, our family members, all impacts the effectiveness of our role as a leader (page 1)." George Washington has shown us what it takes to be a leader and show respect. We can treat everyone in our life just like he did. George Washington presented reverence and sympathy to all.

People who are worthy of respect should show dedication. Showing dedication shows respect because it shows that you do not want to give up, and that you want to keep moving forward. It shows you are committed to something, not giving up, and willing to stay open minded. In Flowers for Algernon, the character Charlie shows a great amount of devotion to the doctors. He would not give up on his goals. Daniel Keyes says, "I beat Algernon! I dint even know I beat him until Burt the tester told me. Then the second time I Lost because I got so exited I fell off the chair before I finished. But after that i beat him 8 more times. I must be getting smart to beat a mouse like Algernon." Charlie failed once; he kept trying, and ended up passing. No matter how severe or vulgar his friends treated him, he still did not disrespect them. Charlie displayed dedication to his goals, and any person who does not give up, and is worthy of respect.

Last but not least, a person who is worthy of respect should be altruistic. An altruistic person is someone who is unselfish and showing selfless concern for the well-being of others. Unselfish people put themselves before others. My mom is a great example of a magnanimous person. In one of the schools she worked at, there were three kids. These children were brutally abused at home, mentally and physically. My mom did not take them into her own care, due to the fact that she has kids of her own but, she did care for these children. She had purchased clothing, food, and any essentials they needed. My mom was also their transportation, from the foster home to school, and anywhere else they needed to go, as a result of the children's foster mother not being able to drive. These kids were truly amazing, and they deserved a better life. People like my mom deserve to be treated with respect, because she is altruistic, and cares about others.

People who are worthy of respect should have good qualities; they should treat others with the greatest amount of sympathy they have, not give up, and be unselfish. Respect is very important because if no one is treated with sympathy, the world would be a bad place. Everyone would disrespect each other. Altruism should be a part of our lives because all people are equal. Every person deserves to be treated with respect. Treating people well shows people that they're in a safe environment and it shows that they are cared for, no matter what they've been through. Respect others, and you will be respected.

Olivia Reynolds
Second Place, Grade 8

According to Google, respect is a "feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements". The word respect has been used since the 14th century (Merriam-Webster), and today, it seems mostly based on the value of the work someone does, the amount of money they earn, or for their sheer determination, ingenuity, or acts of kindness. Respect for a person or thing is not limited by categories such as race, gender, religion, or economic class. A historical figure, a character in literature, and even someone in our own life can be worthy of respect. It should be given to anyone or anything that represents good in life.

One historical figure that is worthy of respect is Walt Disney. Walt Disney was an American entrepreneur, cartoonist, animator, voice actor, and a film producer. Walt Disney co-founded The Walt Disney Company with his brother Roy, and he also planned, designed, and created Disneyland in Anaheim, California and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Walt says, "I don't want the public to see the world they live in while they're in the park. I want them to feel they're in another world." (D23.com) and that is why he built Walt Disney World and

Disneyland. A plaque entering Disneyland quotes Walt Disney Company stating, “Here you leave today and enter the world of yesterday, tomorrow and fantasy”. (D23.com) Walt Disney made places for the world to go and forget about the rush of their everyday lives and have an attraction to enjoy with family and friends of all ages. Even after Disney died in 1966, his dream still lived on. The Walt Disney Company made it their responsibility to make sure that people knew Walt’s vision that “if you dream it, you can do it” (brainyquote.com), just like Disney’s dream did. I respect Disney’s desire to create a world of fun for everyone to enjoy and for the inspirational messages he passed down to be near and dear to our hearts.

One character in literature that speaks to me as a person to respect is Nina Ross from the book *The Summer I Saved the World in 65 days* by Michele Weber Hurwitz. Nina Ross is a thirteen year old girl that sets out to do one small, good thing every day for her neighborhood in the 65 days of summer. Nina takes time out of her summer just to make the world better and make the neighborhood friendlier. Nina does nice things such as planting marigolds for her neighbor, Mrs. Chung, who is in a cast and uses crutches, and she gives slippers to Mrs. Cantanoli, who is 9 months pregnant and has 3 other young boys to watch, and tries to help out as much as she can with the boys. Throughout the whole summer good and bad things happen, but she still tries to do good which is very respectable. Anyone who gives of themselves to make someone else’s life a little better earns my respect.

The people in my life who I respect are my parents. My parents always do things for good like helping an elder or giving to a charity. My mom always says, “There is more joy in giving than receiving.” My dad agrees with my mom, but he also just simply says, “I enjoy doing good things for others.” I respect my parents because they don’t have to do things for other people, but they just do it for the love of giving back. It does not matter what the circumstances are, my parents always want to do things for others, including me and my brother. It is respectful that they always think of others first.

I believe respect is a very important aspect of life. Even people like historical figures, characters in literature, and people in your own life deserve respect. Respect is a gift that keeps on giving. It encourages people to do good things to earn it, and to be good role models and live valuable lives to have to it.

Emma Mayew
Third Place, Grade 8



Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Discrimination against mental illness has been an issue throughout history, and it remains a widespread problem today. *Of Mice and Men*, written in 1925, details the story of George Milton and Lennie Smalls, two migrant workers. George and Lennie work hard at their difficult jobs, hoping to achieve their American Dream: to own a piece of land they can call their own. *Of Mice and Men* shows how mentally ill people are treated through the character of Lennie. Often times, the same way he is discriminated against in the book is similar to the way mentally ill individuals are discriminated against in today's society.

Lennie is constantly disrespected and discriminated against throughout the story. He is even disrespected by his close, and only, friend. As George and Lennie applied for a job at a ranch, George had to tell lies to the boss due to Lennie's mental disability. George stated that Lennie had been kicked in the head by a horse. Later, after meeting the boss, Lennie questioned George. "I wasn't kicked in the head with no horse, was I, George?" "Be a d*mn good thing if you was," George replied viciously. "Save everybody a lot of trouble," (Steinbeck 23). With his response, George implies that Lennie is a hindrance to George and anybody else Lennie is involved with. This suggests that George would get the job easier, if it weren't for Lennie and his disability. George was so mad at Lennie because the job was extremely crucial to their future, as they needed the pay to achieve their dream. Unfortunately, this disrespect from George continues. During the job interview, George was forced to tell more lies about Lennie, stating that they were cousins. Again, Lennie questions him afterward. "Well, that was a lie. An' I'm d*mn glad it was. If I was a relative of yours, I'd shoot myself." (Steinbeck 24). George explicitly states here that being in a close relationship with Lennie is undesirable, saying he'd rather end his life than be related to Lennie, despite being his only friend. However, this lie was important to getting the job, as the job would fund their dream. These examples from the text showcase the disrespect Lennie receives, even from his only friend and caretaker.

Undoubtedly, constant discrimination from George makes Lennie overly conscious of his actions, and he fears the way George will punish him. Out in the barn, Lennie mistakenly kills his puppy as he pets it. As he mourns, he also becomes angry. "Now maybe George ain't gonna let me tend to no rabbits, if he fins' out you got killed," (Steinbeck 85). Lennie has gotten into trouble before, and it often makes George lose his temper with Lennie. This led to George threatening Lennie, saying he wouldn't be able to tend to the rabbits when they finally get their own land. When Lennie kills his pup, he knows George will become angry and fears the punishment he believes will get placed on him. Later, a similar situation occurs in the barn, involving Curley's wife. Curley's wife and Lennie have a conversation, which eventually becomes the pair discussing how they enjoy touching soft things. This leads to Lennie "petting" Curley's wife's hair, at her request. When she tells him to stop, and he doesn't, a struggle ensues, eventually leading to Lennie snapping her neck. As Lennie realizes what he's done, he remarks, "I done a real bad thing," he said. "I shouldn't of did that. George'll be mad." (Steinbeck 92). After committing a violent crime, Lennie is not fearful of the law, but of what George will do to him. He fears what George will do, due to the constant abuse he receives from him. This shows how the disrespect from George has made Lennie fear, in a way, his very own caretaker. Lennie carefully does everything, as he doesn't want to upset George.

While the story does showcase discrimination against mentally disabled individuals in the past, there is still discrimination against them today. Ron Manderscheid, the executive director of the Behavioral Health and Disability Development Directors, states that "Congress didn't want to 'waste' federal money on mental illness." (Szabo 1). Manderscheid says here that few people are willing to help mentally disabled individuals. This relates to *Of Mice and Men* because no one throughout the story could or would help Lennie with his disability. He was treated the same

as anyone else, and there was nothing to accommodate his disability. Furthermore, people who need help for their mental disability do not have many places where they can receive this help. Liz Szabo, the author of this article, writes that ““The systemic discrimination embedded in Medicaid and Medicare laws has accelerated the emptying of state psychiatric hospitals, leaving many of the sickest and most vulnerable patients with nowhere to turn.”” Even today, mentally ill individuals need help, they do not have anywhere to go for this help. The same is true for the novel and Lennie. If Lennie had been arrested, Candy said that he would’ve been locked up and treated like an animal. This evidence displays the fact that discrimination against mental disability is still relevant in modern times.

Of Mice and Men shows how discrimination against those who are mentally disabled has always been an issue, from even the early 1900s to today. The evidence from the story, paired with information from the article by Liz Szabo, shows that discrimination against mental illness has continued throughout history. In all honesty, this issue could be easily fixed. If the government were to pass a law that requires hospitals to assist mentally ill patients, it would eliminate the population of those that need help but are unable to get it. It would also end the discrimination against them, as with the proper help, mentally ill individuals may be able to fit into society better.

Briar Thomas
First Place, Grade 9

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say”-Bryant H. McGill. Everyone longs to feel and be respected. However, there are still groups of people who are not respected. One group who has dealt with disrespect specifically for thousands of years, and sadly still counting, is women. Women have always been seen as inferior, and even though it has gotten better since the early 1900s, (the time period of the book *Of Mice and Men*) there are still some forms of disrespect towards women in our society. Curley’s wife, a character in the book *Of Mice and Men*, is disrespected because of her gender throughout the book, even though it does not seem that way for those who have read it, and women today are still facing different forms of disrespect because of their gender. Both Curley’s wife, and women today fall victim to levels of disrespect due to their gender.

Curley’s wife is considered a “tart”, and no one really pays attention to her, or listens to her. In the book, *Of Mice and Men*, Curley’s wife says, “What’s the matter with me? Ain’t I got no right to talk to nobody?” (Steinbeck 87). Curley’s wife understands that the guys usually stay away from her because she acts promiscuously. However, because they never sit down to talk to her, or listen to her, they do not know why she acts in that manner. Also in *Of Mice and Men*, Curley’s wife talks about her life before the ranch, and how she had dreams, but her mother would always put her down, and how she does not like Curley, because he ignores her, and only talks about himself (Steinbeck 88-89). No one really respected Curley’s wife before she was on the ranch, and after she got to the ranch. Even Curley, her husband, lacked respect for her, to the point where all he did was talk about himself, and not even seem to truly care about her. Curley’s wife acts promiscuously, because she is lonely, and gets no attention from her husband, Curley. If the ranch men had the slightest bit of respect for her, they would have at least asked why she acts in the manner that she does.

One of the main reasons for disrespect towards Curley's wife, and women in general, is societal views on gender roles. In *Of Mice and Men*, Curley's wife talks to Lennie about how she had dreams of being a movie star, and how a man told him he would write her a letter, but she never received the letter, and became Curley's wife. (Steinbeck 88). The man probably led Curley's wife on, to believe that he could make her famous and make her feel special, but his lack of respect for her did not let him fulfill his promises. In the article, "11 Ways The American Workplace Is Still Really, Really Sexist", it states, "The trend continues even as women rise up the corporate ladder. Female workers make up just 6.2 percent of the top earning positions in 2010, according to a report from Catalyst." (Berman). Women who are competent enough to have a top earning job, are still being put down, even though they may be better than the men for those positions. It has been this way before the women's rights movement, and even after. Curley's wife has been tricked and let down, and all she is supposed to be, is some man's wife. This book was written in a time era where women were not supposed to amount to much. John Steinbeck did not even give Curley's wife her own name; she is just always referred to as Curley's wife, as if she herself is owned by Curley, and not her own person. She is the only female in the book beside Aunt Clara, but she is the most important female, and she did not have her own name. Women today, are still not supposed to be seen to amount to much, even though people make it seem as if they believe women can be better than men. It is still lodged in people's social minds that women are lesser than men; that gender roles matter the most, and that does not seem to be changing even after generation and generations.

Women are thought to not be competent enough, and they end up getting low paying jobs, in the way that Curley's wife was demeaned, and not given a good job. In the article, "11 Ways The American Workplace Is Still Really, Really Sexist", it states, "60 percent of minimum wage workers are women. Nearly two-thirds are part time workers, who earn less per hour than their full time counterparts." (Berman). Women usually still get low paying jobs, or minimum wage jobs, because male bosses of slightly higher paying jobs have disrespect towards them, and some believe that because they are women, they are automatically not fit for the job. Also in the article, it states, "If women want to make money, they generally have to try harder than their comparable male colleagues."(Berman). On top of women not being able to get higher paying jobs, when they do want to make more money in the job that they have, they have to try much harder. Curley's wife wanted a high paying job, or to be a movie star, but she never got it, and instead of even being able to get a job, (because in the time period of the book, women were not "fit" to work) she had to become some man's wife, as if that is all she would ever amount to.

Just like Curley's wife, and many women back in the early 1900s, women today still face gender role issues, and disrespect. Even though it seems to have gotten better, or even gone away completely, disrespect towards women is still lurking in the shadows, so that those who think differently do not see it. Curley's wife may have been disrespected a little more openly than women today, but that in no way shape or form makes the topic any better. Society needs to listen to women more, instead of judging them right away because of their gender. Curley's wife was never listened to, just labeled, and stereotyped, and she died sad, miserable, and lonely.

Women today who face disrespect need their voices to be heard to stop this insolence before it is too late. If women or any group that is disrespected are pushed to the brink, it will result in something disastrous.

Miranda Kotey
Second Place, Grade 9

A long time ago, in a galaxy far far away, there was once a Jedi Master, proven to be greater than any before him, or any that would come after him. This Ultimate Jedi Master possessed both physical, and mental prowess, all of which he used for the light, and those around him. His name, Yoda. Jedi Master Yoda was the greatest Jedi the Republic had ever seen. All throughout his life, he trained thousands; embedding the good morals and character he possessed that made him so unique. Yoda was one that could be respected, not only for his mental and physical skill, but for his redeeming personality and character. Throughout his entire life, Jedi Master Yoda shared his knowledge with all, fiercely opposed and fought tyranny and totalitarianism, and never failed to see the best in those around him even those that had been lost to the dark. When looking at his life, I respect Yoda as he shares his precious knowledge with others, opposes tyranny and totalitarianism, and always sees the best in everyone.

One of the seemingly infinite reasons I admire Yoda, and respect him, is that he is capable of sharing his most precious knowledge with those around. Jedi Master Yoda is seemingly without jealousy, conceit, or zeal, as he easily provides others with information to better them, and their lives. I know firsthand the difficulty of putting aside rankings, and zeal to give others information you possess. However, Yoda easily places others before himself, and enlightens them with training, and information to better them, even if that means them becoming better than he. As Yoda often said, "Always two there are, no more, no less. A master and an apprentice," (Yoda). Yoda was always the master, enlightening those around him. Through is thousands of years of life, Yoda has enlightened those with less mental prowess than himself, earning my respect, as it is a quality I believe to be not only rare, but of great importance. Through his modeling of sharing intellect, I have been deeply affected by Yoda, to change my own life. Through Yoda's examples of intellectual altruism, I have learned that rank is not everything, and if it means bettering someone, than sharing information is worth it, and should not be regretted. Despite rank, creed, or classification, sharing information with others with less of an aptitude for academics is important, as it allows humanity as a whole, to become more informed, or simply better someone intellectually. Before seeing Yoda's altruistic nature, and the good it does, I closely guarded my intellectual property, in order to remain on top of those below me. However, now I see that is folly and that information should be shared, if it is shared to genuinely help those who are at a lesser rank intellectually than yourself. This lesson was one of many I can learn from Jedi Master Yoda, and only the first reason I respect him.

I respect Yoda for several reasons, one being that he fiercely opposes tyranny and totalitarianism. Throughout his time on the Jedi Council, Yoda has fought against the corrupted politics of the Republic, whom force totalitarianism upon their people, and attempt to control all aspects of the galaxy, including the Jedi council. Yoda however fights the Senate and the tyrant I the making, Chancellor Palpatine in order to ensure the freedom of the people of the galaxy. Once again, Yoda places himself against a higher power, in order to protect those below him, and better their lives. Yoda's battle against totalitarianism is yet another reason I respect him so. However, Yoda has my respect the most for one of his most redeeming qualities.

Jedi Master Yoda has earned my respect more than any as he sees the best in everyone, and has always attempted to help those that were lost. Whether it is Padawans or Jedi turned Sith, Yoda has always cast aside prejudice, or past actions to attempt to help all those within his reach. This is a quality possessed by few, and the biggest reason he has earned my respect. Yoda has taught me that altruism is one of life's biggest keys, and that helping others is always more important than one's self interests.

When looking at his life, I respect Yoda as he shares his precious knowledge with others, opposes tyranny and totalitarianism, and always sees the best in everyone. Yoda places the intellectual needs of others before him, fights tyranny, and always helps others. Though these traits, Yoda has impacted me greatly, and earned my ultimate respect.

Tyler Yeomans
Third Place, Grade 9

Sally Ride saw the stars in space, and the potential in every child. Her mission in life was to encourage young people, especially girls, to pursue an education in science; she wrote children's books and created science programs dedicated to stimulating their minds. She became the first American woman in space and obtained a doctorate in physics. Sally Ride's many achievements have continued to inspire the world, making her well deserving of its respect.

As a female physicist and astronaut, Sally Ride overcame the male dominated science field. In a NASA press conference, prior to her departure for space, she was asked questions that would seem incredibly sexist and insulting by today's standards. One reporter asked, "Will the flight affect your reproductive organs?" Another seemingly absurd question was, "Do you weep when things go wrong on the job?" These questions were only directed towards Ride, not towards any of her male co-workers. This says a lot about the discrimination women during this time period endured. She faced adversity, but never faltered. She travelled to space in 1983 and again in 1984, not once feeling hindered by her gender.

She eventually became a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego and led a NASA outreach program that allowed middle school children to request images of the Earth and Moon. In 2001 she created Sally Ride Science, a program designed to inspire young children to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. She also co-wrote children's books with her partner Tam O'Shaughnessy. Her quest for science education has helped shape her legacy.

Tam O'Shaughnessy and Sally Ride kept their relationship secret from the public eye. Sally Ride's secrecy may seem like a failed opportunity at supporting LGBT rights, but for a woman so outstanding in the sciences, silence was the best option. Coming out during her lifetime would have overshadowed her many successes. The media would have overemphasized Ride's sexuality, or possibly criticized her for it. Coming out posthumously allowed Ride to continue her important work inspiring generations and making advances in the sciences.

Ride should be respected for her intelligence and her ability to inspire the world. She did not shy away from her career by succumbing to the media's stereotyping. Ride's prolific career is a great example for children, especially in a generation where STEM education is increasingly valuable. Sally Ride proved to the world that risk taking is important to achieving your goals.

Colin Shalk
First Place, Grade 10

An educator is defined by merriam-webster.com as, " a student of the theory and practice of education". Education is the backbone and basis of the American dream. To acquire a well-paying occupation, a house with a white-picket fence, and a loving family we first need to receive a good education. Educators are tasked with spending hours upon hours on their profession inside and outside of the classroom, dealing with large quantities of students with varying backgrounds and personalities, and some of them being paid less than garbage-men.

Educators deserve respect because of all that they have to put up with school hours. Teachers must take the time they are allotted in a school day and get through a thoroughly planned lesson with all the school requirements. Teachers must teach students no matter who the student or how distracting or disruptive they may be. Teachers are often mistaken for baby-sitters and tasked with disciplining insubordinate children. Many teachers must have to find ways to deal with overcrowded classrooms and an abundance of minds to feed. An often untold struggle for teachers is coping with their bond and attachment to some of their best students. Most of all teachers merit respect because they have to try their best to give respect and receive little to none in return.

Educators are an umbrella, under which administrators fall. Administrators take on a whole different set of rules, roles, and responsibilities. Administrators are the faces of schools and are often seen as the leaders of a building full of staff and students. School administrators are often former teachers so they know the struggles of being a teacher. Another struggle administrators must endure is their inborn fondness for a craft they no longer get to practice as often. Administrators are tasked with frequently reporting to the higher ups of school districts including school boards, superintendents, and appeasing disgruntled parents. Administrators warrant respect because they bare on their shoulders such large and extraneous workloads that it is a miracle that people still fill the occupation.

Parents should also be given the title of educator. Parents act as guardians and guides for their children and others through the game of life. Parents take their occupation as parent home with them while many other professions are able to drop their job at 5 p.m. every workday. Parents also endure the separation that teachers do, but a parent's bond must be much deeper considering that many parents have been with their children for the child's entire life. Parents are the most important educators because they aren't given a curriculum but are still required to fill their child's mind with enough wisdom and insight to last them a lifetime.

Education is so important that it was one of the first concepts considered by the framers of our current nation. To get an education we need someone to teach us and bestow their knowledge and life experience upon us. Educators are the hardest working people to ever exist because they have the immense responsibility of preparing students for the real world and following outlandish curriculums. Educators deserve large salaries, big houses, and happiness. My fellow students and I cannot provide my educators with any of these things but I can supply them with the respect that I know they need and want.

George Class-Peters
Second Place, Grade 10

Respect can be defined as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. When reflecting on this definition there are many people in my life that I think of and would consider them to be someone that I look up to. But, there is one person that stands out in my mind the most, and she is my mom. My mom is the strongest and most hardworking person I know and the amount of respect that I have for her is unlimited.

My mom works at the Delaware City Refinery as a receptionist, but she is usually the person in the back running all of the meetings and special events. Her job requires her to work late some nights and be on call at all times in case there is an emergency. My mom is always there to do whatever she can for a friend or family member in need, even if it means that she is giving up something that she may need, too. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach and being anywhere where the weather is warm. She also enjoys doing things with friends and spending the weekend relaxing at home after a busy week. My mom is mostly an easy going person who always there for anyone and has a smile on her face no matter what.

Over the years my mom and I have moved four times and she has had as many as three jobs at once. Even though that was a time when my mom could have just given up she still worked harder than anyone I know to do whatever she could for me, and to this day she is still putting my needs over everything else. If a family member or friend is short twenty dollars for gas my mom is always the first to help, even if it's the last twenty dollars in her pocket. Even after a long work day she will run to the store just to make sure that I am prepared for the next day. There aren't enough "Thank you's" in the world to ever relay to her how grateful I am for everything that she does for me. All of these things, plus a thousand more are the reasons why I respect my mom so much.

My mom makes a positive impact on the world and my life every day. Even if it's just a kind word or a smile she is sure to always brighten someone's day. No matter what she is going through at home or with a friend she always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face. My mom's schedule is busy, but she also finds time to volunteer at the Delaware Food Bank whenever she can. She knows that whatever she is going through, someone in the world has it worse, and if you just help out a little, you can make a difference. No matter what is going on my mom is always there of me whenever I need her, and for that, the respect I have for her is immense.

Through all the hard work and things that happen in her life a smile has never left her face and she has never given up. She has taught me that working hard for what you want and staying positive are two of the most important things in life. Without my mom, I would not be who I am today, and although I may not tell her as much as I should, she will always be the person I respect most in life. Overall, my mom is just trying to make ends meet on her own but with her work ethic and positive outlook she has gained the respect of many.

Savannah Poorman
Third Place, Grade 10

Respect is a characteristic which we are not born with, but is earned throughout a lifetime. Respect is earned through the actions of a lifetime, actions which improve either those around them or the entire world. Respect is something someone gets when they put the people around them before themselves. It is not easy to earn such an honor, and very few people have the true respect of all of those around them. One of the few people who I think deserves respect is Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a man who is able to persevere no matter the odds, who cares greatly for the environment, and who is puts the cause above himself.

Paul Watson is one of the few people who go against the tides, pushing for change even when more powerful parties blatantly disagree with his ideals. Paul has been fighting for ecosystem conservation for almost 47 years, dating back to Greenpeace. One of his major campaigns, against Japanese whaling, Beginning his Antarctic Campaign in around 2006, Watson continued halting whaling operations there despite mechanical and political issues, ultimately helping to stop whaling in the region in 2014. He has done likewise operations in Canada, Namibia, and other parts of the world.

Regardless of how others feel about Watson and how he goes about preventing illegal hunting, he has a deep care for the environment. Watson has participated and in some cases founded eco-organizations such as Greenpeace, Earthforce, Sierra Club, and Earth First! Over five decades, Watson prevented illegal hunting around the world, from pole to pole. Watson is also the author of many ecofriendly works of literature, including *Ocean Warrior* and *Seal Wars*. All of his efforts have been attempting to stop illegal multimillion dollar organizations.

Paul Watson is the prime example of the concept “Actions speak louder than words.” His main organization, *Sea Shepherd*, is a direct action group which rather than waiting for politics to possibly stall illegal actions instead goes in stops it directly. Using strategies that can in some ways be considered extreme, illegal hunting companies were financially crippled, leading to quick resolutions which politically would have taken an era. When legal action was taken against Watson himself, he stepped down from his position rather than allow it to interfere with his organization's goal of saving the whales. A noble action such as this is almost as honorable as taking a bullet for a friend.

Paul Watson is in my opinion someone who deserves great respect. He has spent the majority of his life helping the environment, an entity which cannot speak for itself. He has put himself in dangerous positions in order to prevent what can be considered harsh and unjust actions. Even though he is looked down upon by many powerful figures and governments, I believe he is a misunderstood person who has sacrificed his own reputation for the greater good, an action which has earned him my respect.

Zachary Young
First Place, Grade 11

Frank Yehiri is an African born man with a heart of pure gold and a persona of selflessness. No matter what comes his way, he manages to keep his eyes set on God and keeps a smile on his face. Mr. Frank Yehiri was born in Cote d'Ivoire, also known as Ivory Coast, West Africa. Born into a family that was not the most fortunate, Mr. Yehiri learned to appreciate everything that came his way. He never questioned the things he had to endure. At a young age, he started to

take care of his family when situations called for his assistance. While taking care of his family, he excelled in school and played soccer. At the tender age of eleven, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Now this was no easy decision as Cote d'Ivoire's main religion is Muslim. Not only did Mr. Yehiri have to battle against the majority, but he had to battle against his parents who practiced witchcraft and tried to influence him to do so as well. But he overcame adversity, and later he influenced his parents to become Christian as well.

One thing that amazes me about Mr. Yehiri is that when things do not go as he plans, he goes along with it without complaining. For example, he was offered to play professional soccer, but he turned the offer down to study medicine because he that felt medicine was his calling. Although he misses soccer, he does not regret his decision as he knows it was the best one for him. At the age of twenty-five, Mr. Frank Yehiri arrived in Delaware to further his education at Delaware State University to become a nurse. While studying, he met his gorgeous wife, and they now have a handsome son and a beautiful daughter. He finished his studies before being hit with a detour again. Mr. Yehiri felt that God was calling him to teach, so he did just that. He joined the staff at my previous school, Calvary Christian Academy, as the French teacher. As God would have it, the school was actually in need of a replacement as they had lost the previous teacher. Mr. Yehiri taught at Calvary and instantly clicked with every student he had to teach. He was very funny with his French accent and his lack of knowledge regarding "American" slang. I could also see the light of God spewing out of him. When I spoke to him, I could feel and hear the compassion flowing out of him, especially regarding medicine and serving God. The greatest thing Mr. Yehiri did was take me under his wing and support me.

I respect Mr. Yehiri because of his compassion towards me. I respect Mr. Yehiri because of his support. On several occasions, he was the one who pushed me to get through the day. He was the one who told me to not give up. I respect Mr. Yehiri because he was my shoulder to cry on. He never told me to go away, but instead he made it a point to reach out to me to see how I was doing. He was quite literally my backbone. I respect Mr. Yehiri because he exhibited what a father should be to a daughter. When my biological father had failed me, Mr. Yehiri was there as the successful version. He had counteracted my negative thoughts toward men. I respect Mr. Yehiri because he never judged me. He got me to open up to him and pour my heart out. Never once did he shame me for my past mistakes, but rather he told me how to correct the mistakes that could be fixed and how to avoid making them again. I respect Mr. Yehiri because he aided in the deepening of my relationship with God. Honestly, without him, I more than likely would no longer have a relationship with God. He was a spiritual light unto my world. I respect Mr. Yehiri because he accepted me for who I was. He never gave up on me; he never tried to intentionally change me. Finally, I respect Mr. Yehiri because he shaped me into the person I am today.

I know Mr. Yehiri was put into my life for a reason. Before him, I was leading a life of darkness with no purpose. But then he stepped into my world and slowly, but surely, I began to understand my worth. Without him, I do not know where I would be. He has truly been a blessing to me and many people around me. He is an amazing, God-loving man with a heart of gold. Everyone should have a Mr. Yehiri in their life because it is people like him who keep this world spinning. He has restored some of my faith in humanity. I pray one day to be able to pay this blessing forward. I hope to at least be half the human being he is and to be able to have the opportunity to shape a person's life so positively. I will forever be grateful for all Mr. Yehiri has done for me.

Tahliah Skinner-Ling
Second Place, Grade 11

In lieu of the tumultuous events of the past decade, there was a beacon of hope, a light that showed the way towards a world free of oppressive tendencies that hamper the development of children. This light is a girl named Malala Yousafzai, who was born in Pakistan in 1997. She is an advocate for children's rights to education, and beat the odds to continue to advocate her case after she was attacked and shot by Taliban gunman in 2012. In October 2014, Malala, along with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Malala receives my utmost respect because she possesses qualities that people everywhere should strive for, and her actions to promote world peace and educate future generations in poor countries is a selfless and an empowering act that generated worldwide support.

Malala possesses qualities of bravery, selflessness, and compassion that compel people to stand behind her cause. In Swat Valley, where she grew up in Pakistan, the Taliban came in and took control of the whole area. Schools were destroyed and girls were not allowed to go to school or even leave the house in some instances. Malala stood up to this and make blog posts, statements on Pakistani TV and diary entries to the BBC. The volatile situation there made her scared, every day she feared for her life and what would happen, but she stood up the oppressive ruling by the Taliban. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban men when they stopped a school bus she was on and asked for her by name. She made a quick and very impressive recovery and continued to advocate for her cause even after she knew what could happen to her. She continually risked her life to help children in oppressive situations, like hers, to get the education they deserve. She continues to travel to different areas like Jordan to talk to Syrian refugees, or Nigeria where she spoke out in support of the abducted girls who were kidnapped by Boko Haram, a terrorist group like the Taliban.

Moreover, Malala created the Malala Fund with her father, which has become an organization that, through education, empowers girls to achieve their potential and become confident and strong leader in their own countries. She is working in many countries to advocate for the rights of education to girls and in even more oppressive areas the right of education for both genders. Malala's actions are so important because the achievement of a peaceful world is crucially set upon the rights of children and young people being respected. The taking away of children's basic right to education contributes to the spread of conflicts to future generations and starts a continuous cycle of social instability. This girl's story isn't a sob story, but a story that should lead as an example for people everywhere to stand up for what they believe in.

Maxwell Berman
Third Place, Grade 11

Simply put, respect is "a feeling of admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements." We learn it as the 'Golden Rule' in kindergarten, and are expected to treat others the way that we would want to be treated. It is no surprise that respect is a key trait that others look for in us, and could be the point that convinces them to like or dislike us. Many establishments, such as schools and businesses, choose respect as one of their core values, and are always on the lookout for great examples of respect. One of the most obvious institutions that comes to mind for me is the United States military, where respect is expected to be shown to your peers, but at the same time, must be earned from them. Being as I am in Air

Force JROTC, I have been taught a lot about being respectful and showing integrity towards others, but the lesson that stands out the most came not from the classroom, but from a bit of advice from one of my instructors.

Of all the memories I have in JROTC, one of the most keen memories I have is when my instructors, Colonel Hetterly and Sergeant Carlton told me during the beginning of my senior year as Corps Commander that one of the best ways to show leadership is to 'lead from the front.' This phrase could be interpreted many ways, but I chose to understand it by connecting it to respect and integrity. Directly, the advice meant that if you want to get others to do something, then you yourself must first show them that you can do it as well. I figured that if I could exemplify my own respect in front of all of the other cadets, then they would in turn strive to be more respectful themselves. This includes even showing respect in the simplest of ways, such as saying my 'yes sir's' and 'no sir's', or using manners such as 'please' and 'thank you' when conversing with my subordinate cadets. I learned that my instructors were right in their advice, because I recognized more respect from other cadets being shown.

The advice I received from my JROTC instructors has value in more places than just military settings. I can use it when talking to other teachers, interviewing for college admissions, speaking to my boss, or even just in having a normal conversation with my friends. I now appreciate it more when I see someone else show respect in even the smallest of ways, and even more when they expect nothing in return for it. I have put this advice to use in real life outside of my JROTC class, for example, when I ask my parents for a favor or when I interviewed for the Air Force ROTC college scholarship. Showing respect increases your chances of others showing the same kindness to you, just because you took the initiative to do something nice.

Respect is one of the most important values a person can have, and is the base for a person to build many other traits off of, such as compassion or integrity. Respect is vital to human communication and interaction, and can only lead to good things. As Jana Stanfield said, "I cannot do all the good the world needs. But the world needs all the good I can do." This quote is prompting us to show as much as respect as possible, because even if it doesn't really make a difference to you in your life, it could mean the world to somebody else.

Lucas Zlock
First Place, Grade 12

Fyodor Dostoyevsky once said, "If you want to be respected by others, the great thing is to respect yourself. Only by that, only by self-respect, will you compel others to respect you." Respect means showing genuine regard for the worth of people, including yourself. It was the spring of 2015 when I had decided I no longer wanted to play lacrosse; this decision was so I could focus more on my academics. When word got out about this, one of my friends, Hannah Griffiths, explained to me that spots were open to be a part of the Special Olympics Project Unify Track team. Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. Hannah devoted her time and effort into making this possible and for that; I have the greatest amount of respect for her.

I agreed to be a part of the team, but it took a while before I realized the impact I would have on these students. Practices were held once a week for about two hours throughout the season. Each

athlete is partnered with one of the Special Olympics students and I was partnered with Alyssa Baker, a young girl who has a rare form of Down syndrome. Alyssa is a bright individual with a spunky attitude and a nimble mind. She was a very agile athlete and loved to compete no matter how she was feeling that day. Hannah was the coach for Project Unify for the 2015 season and she never missed one practice. Rather than spending time doing other things, Hannah focused her time on Special Olympics.

I could remember missing one practice for work reasons and as a result, Alyssa performed poorly that practice. After hearing about this from Hannah, I never missed one again. To ensure this, I informed my manager that for the remainder of the 2015 track season, I would need all Mondays off. The more I focused my attention on her abilities, the better she became at them. I realized that I had an imperative responsibility and that these students depended on me.

During this season, we won all of our unified meets and eventually, went on to win the State Championship for Special Olympics Project Unify for our school. When it came time for the state championships, I must admit, I was pretty nervous. I remember Hannah telling me that day, that whatever happens, she was proud that I agreed to be a part of the team. I was signed up to throw shotput in the competition and I found out that day that I was also sprinting in a race. It made me upset finding this out the day of, but I kept reminding myself that I was doing this for Alyssa. I ended up getting third place at the race and I felt I did not do well. When it came time for awards, I was under the impression that we did not win because I felt I performed so poorly in the race. Safe to say, the best moment of my life was hearing the announcer call the winning school: Smyrna High. What was even more rewarding was getting to see the smiling faces of the students and the great joy they experienced getting to hold the winning trophy.

I never knew taking this journey would shape me into the young adult I am today and help me build such a large amount of self-respect for myself. Without Hannah Griffith's drive to get this program started at our school, all of these events would not have been possible.

Frantz Desir
Second Place, Grade 12

Nearly everyone has their own definition of the word respect. For being such an important attitude and emotion, it is interesting that the word does not have universal meaning. Some people think respect means appreciating something, while others believe respect means understanding something, and there are still several other interpretations of the word. In middle school I found out what the word means to me. Through my observation of a series of interesting interactions in middle school, I found that I believe respect means sympathizing with someone, despite maybe not agreeing or being in the same position. This experience really changed my outlook on how I treat people, and how people treat each other.

I started understanding respect when I observed the opposite of it in middle school. I remember on my walk to class every morning seeing a group of boys pick on another student because of the color of his skin. Some days it was just jokes towards the boy; some days it was just teasing. But I started to see by the look on his face, that it was never "just" jokes, and it was never "just" teasing. Heavily outnumbered, the boy just simply ignored the pack of bullies as much as he could, but it was obvious they were getting to him. Also, I could see that he was hesitant to go talk to a teacher or counselor, as he thought he would appear weak and be subject to even more

humiliation from the boys. Sometimes observing the opposite of something helps you understand it. In my case, I began to understand respect because this group of boys was giving their fellow student absolutely none. I soon observed what true respect is, and I will forever remember this experience. A friend of the group of bullies would also walk by every day and greet his friends. He also began to notice how his friends were bullying this innocent boy, solely due to his race. The bullies would try to get this friend to join in on the teasing but he would always find a way out of it. One day however, this boy defined respect for me. I watched as he approached the bullies and told them to knock it off. He told them that they have no reason to bully the other kid, and that they make themselves look like complete idiots every time they do. The bullies of course listened to him, because he was their friend, but you could see they were angry at him. The boy had risked his relationship with his friends to stand up for what is right. This boy respected that victim of bullying. He wasn't in the same position; he wasn't getting bullied because of his skin color. Yet, he sympathized with the victim, and put himself in an uncomfortable position to save him from further harassment. To me, the most interesting part of the story is that the two boys were never friends; maybe they exchanged a respectful nod to each other, but they never had to form a relationship for them to have extreme respect for each other. Those two boys unknowingly defined respect for me.

After those events, I began thinking about the world differently. So many of the conflicts in our school, state, country, and world, are simply due to a difference in characteristics. People disagree with each other, solely because they believe in different religions, have different colors of skin, or are different genders. In an ideal world, everyone would respect each other. They would sympathize with each other to better understand their emotions and ideas. On a personal level, I challenge myself every day to respect everyone I interact with. I don't allow myself to disagree or argue with anyone over our trivial differences. The point is we are all humans, and we can all help and understand each other if we replace all judgmental tendencies with respect. Instead of focusing on our differences, people should focus on the fact that we are all just people trying to live life the best we can. When I started viewing the world from this respectful perspective, I realized that many of the people or things I thought I really disliked were simply things I was not properly respecting. I changed my attitude and life became a lot more optimistic as I no longer focused on the differences between people, but the respect they gave to each other.

In conclusion, respect means able to sympathize with someone despite having differences. Two boys in middle school taught me how respect is properly shown by neutralizing a group of bullies. Observing this display of respect changed my outlook on life and the world, as I began to focus more on respect and less on differences. I believe the more connected all of us are as a people, the better off we are, and the first step to a global connection is for everyone to understand and focus on showing respect.

Miranda Cook
Third Place, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTION

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ryleigh Sheehan	Kindergarten
Andrew Russum	Kindergarten
Kloey Weems	Kindergarten
Aiden Barr	Kindergarten
Austin (AJ) Rumfelt	Kindergarten

Elayna Zeitler	Grade 1
Elizabeth Dierkes	Grade 1
MaKayla Lecates	Grade 1
Eric Strauss	Grade 1
Cecilia McLean	Grade 1

Brookelynn Rullo	Grade 2
Alyvia Caruso	Grade 2
Derek Gomez	Grade 2
Mason Vendrick	Grade 2
Willow Webb	Grade 2

Brooke Berge	Grade 3
Keagan Miller	Grade 3
Hayden Cote	Grade 3
Cadence Baker	Grade 3
Keira Shahan	Grade 3

Sarah Esbenshade	Grade 4
Alina Bartlett	Grade 4
Brandon Perry	Grade 4
Ivan Stanley	Grade 4
Cheyenne Silves	Grade 4

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aurora Glenn	Kindergarten
Lexi Lineberry	Kindergarten
Jendyl Jones	Kindergarten
Zachary Cannon	Kindergarten
Lillian Penix	Kindergarten

Alejandro "AJ" Prado	Grade 1
Brody Augustine	Grade 1
Dimitrius Herard	Grade 1
Landon Garcia	Grade 1
Ne'Vaeh Wilson	Grade 1

Willow Andrews	Grade 2
Katie Oswald	Grade 2
A'nya Isabell	Grade 2
Keely Coleman	Grade 2
Marissa Bruno	Grade 2

Mackenzie Huggins	Grade 3
Harry "Jonathan" Wood	Grade 3
Evan Trettel	Grade 3
Jazmien Gonzales	Grade 3
Yanayah Jones	Grade 3

Roarie Glenn-Russum	Grade 4
Tierra Hill	Grade 4
Madelyn Ezell	Grade 4
Jenna Thompson	Grade 4
Grace Butler	Grade 4

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Molly Schulenburg	Kindergarten
Samantha Frost	Kindergarten
Zoraya Akosah	Kindergarten
Alaina Tracy	Kindergarten
Lillian Constein	Kindergarten

Jonah Brown	Grade 1
Chrystian Carroll	Grade 1
Amelia Coker	Grade 1
Asia Lang	Grade 1
Dimiana Tiberi	Grade 1

Michael VanHekle	Grade 2
Carson Casey	Grade 2
Nick Campbell	Grade 2
Olivia Bruno	Grade 2
Spencer Wattay	Grade 2

Riley Horsey	Grade 3
Anjae Sorrell	Grade 3
Alexandra Passero	Grade 3
Mason Schulenburg	Grade 3
Alexander Gaynor	Grade 3

Kate McGowan	Grade 4
Gracie Bulson	Grade 4
Annia Castro	Grade 4
Christian Bennett	Grade 4
Isabelle Bernard	Grade 4

Grade 4	Grade 4

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Barak Okoye	Kindergarten	Rhian Bridgeford	Grade 2
Ella Mathenge	Kindergarten	Mckenna Wilson	Grade 2
Rose Waltemire	Kindergarten	Jaidyn Stewart	Grade 2
Alexa Barnes	Kindergarten	Jonah Taylor	Grade 2
Michael Seymore	Kindergarten	Ava Pritchett	Grade 2
Walter Melendez	Grade 1	Ryan Snyder	Grade 3
Calley Carter	Grade 1	Cody Pinzhoffer	Grade 3
Lavon Peterson	Grade 1	Mia Davis	Grade 3
Jeffrey Curtis	Grade 1	Naureen Hasan	Grade 3
Madelyn Margavage	Grade 1	Jenna Vannoy	Grade 3
	Michael Womer	Grade 4	
	Westen Schreckengost	Grade 4	
	Kailah Crews	Grade 4	
	Savannah James	Grade 4	
	Jaz Whitley	Grade 4	

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Kenzey Curran	Grade 5	Amber Sayers	Grade 5
Bahsil Laster	Grade 5	Lindsey Seeney	Grade 5
Machai Stinnett	Grade 5	Tyler Heverin	Grade 5
Gabriella Spaulding	Grade 5	Caitlin Thompson	Grade 5
Geoffrey Sanborn	Grade 5	Alexia Inhof	Grade 5
Jesica Payton	Grade 6	Liam Meginniss	Grade 6
Lopez Sanusi	Grade 6	Tyler Downward	Grade 6
Kevin Sarkissian	Grade 6	Kamyra Washington	Grade 6
Madison Arsenault	Grade 6	Britney Kalb	Grade 6
Jaida Dillard	Grade 6	Shane Drobinski	Grade 6

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Abigail Anderson	Grade 7
Rachel Youngcourt	Grade 7
Lonnie Davis	Grade 7
Kelsey Penix	Grade 7
Aaliyah Street	Grade 7
Jessica Bergold	Grade 8
Hannah Brennan	Grade 8
Talia Nunn-Millet	Grade 8
Quinton Duckery	Grade 8
Michael Thompson	Grade 8

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Hannah Jones	Grade 9	Samantha Sawyer	Grade 11
Kara Warburton	Grade 9	Elijah Hutchinson	Grade 11
Quinn Boyd	Grade 9	Taylor Smith	Grade 11
Kendra Mounts	Grade 9	Morgan Burnett	Grade 11
Jamirah Jones	Grade 9	Jessica Middleton	Grade 11
Karla Pagan	Grade 10	Hannah Griffiths	Grade 12
Alec Shalk	Grade 10	Morgan Newport	Grade 12
Lauren Williams	Grade 10	Madelynne Rodriguez	Grade 12
Erin Currie	Grade 10	Thorin West	Grade 12
Taimira Ramseur	Grade 10	Arielle Flores	Grade 12