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English 1020

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Hero

What makes a hero, is it a catchy saying like “Look up in the sky, it’s a bird, it’s a plane, its Superman or do you have to be a millionaire athlete or rock star. Those few sayings are closely associated with the general populous opinion of a hero. Many people consider superheroes as their heroes. But the problem with a superhero is that it is an imagination. Superman, Spiderman and Batman are all superheroes but they are not real. The bad part of all of that is even though people know that they are not real they still have that false illusion in their heads that if anything happens their “superhero” will show up. If people really take the time to realize what is around them and that any person can be a hero they may get a chance to be around someone extraordinary that can change their life and be their hero. In all honesty it is a tough word to truly define because it could be many different things or have multiple meanings. But grandpa you exemplified that any ordinary person can show courage by doing basic but crucial tasks no matter what the circumstances are and you prove that anyone can become a hero regardless of how the media portrays heroes.

How a hero is exemplified in the media is a rather annoying topic and it takes away from the good things people in this world really do. In today’s news people are portraying athletes and superstars just because they have a lot of money as heroes rather than role models. Another thing that they are portraying heroes to be are the Chilean Miners that were stuck in a mine for 69 days, but how can someone consider a person who comes out of a mine alive a hero what did they do that was so heroic, Yes they did come together and unite to survive that is a heroic characteristic but they shouldn’t be portrayed heroes because that is going to give children the wrong idea of who their hero should be. It wasn’t just them who helped get out of the mine. If you want to consider the entire process as a heroic rescue then that makes sense but don’t classify the miners as heroes because they really didn’t do anything “heroic”. The whole entire mining situation should show people that with influence of people around you , you can persevere. In the book American Heroes of a Media Agethey say that today people really consider athletes as heroes. It also says that the earth is lacking heroes and now the astronauts that went into space are just a mere memory in the past of people’s heroes. The thing about media is that is it so widely spread so it shows the athletes and rock stars all over the T.V or on the radio and children pick up on them really quickly. Media has so much influence on people today they are a major part of the reason that a child is relating more to an athlete or an actor or a rock star rather than a parent or a grandparent or someone special in their life.

Grandpa although your definition of a hero may be: *someone who is a warrior or veteran, any kind of fighter who wins their battle and someone who is successful.* Rather than someone who battles a cancer or someone who does what needs to be done for their family. But what all the aspects that you believe makes a hero all come back on one thing, Courage. In the case of a terminal illness courage is needed and you showed a lot of it battling the way you did. You may not have won your battle and that’s why you may not consider yourself a success, but you fit every other aspect of your definition. Not only does it take a lot of courage out of the patient it also takes a lot of courage from the family. But in your circumstance you never let us get down, you lived life as it was given to you, you didn’t want to bother anybody with your disease and you showed everyone that no matter what you were going through you didn’t let it bring you down. When you had your bad days, you sheltered yourself away from us because you didn’t want us to be hurt and remember you that way. I know you didn’t do this stuff to be a hero; you did it because that’s what you thought needed to be done. In the book The Last Lecture by Dr. Randy Pausch he reminded me a lot of you. He was diagnosed with the same pancreatic cancer as you were and I continue to live by the mottos that you and him both set. “We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand (Dr. Randy Pausch). He said that in his book The Last Lecture and it has stuck with me because that’s what you did and that is very heroic. Pausch also says in his book that “there will always be those brick walls” and you have to continue to live for the ones that you love and the ones that love you. What the brick walls mean is that if life deals you a bad hand then you must continue to be the same person you’ve always been because they will always be there for you. I know you would never consider yourself better than anybody; what you would say is what have I done that is so much better then the next person. I can tell you right now you have done more than the next person. I just wish that one day up in heaven we can meet again and you can accept that you are my hero.

Even though you may never accept the fact that you are my hero, I will always continue to live by your mottos and morals. Some say my impression of a hero is a little far fetch and I don’t clearly understand why. My definition of a hero is *someone who is willing to go the extra mile, someone who fights even if they know they may not win, and someone who lives life like it is giving to them, someone who pushes you to be the best and to give all your effort in life.* You are my inspiration, you taught me that even if I am down in the dumps, that I need to continue to fight for what I know I can achieve. Thanks to you I am on my way to being a successful person. I want to not only fit my definition of a hero, but I want to fit your definition of a hero as well. I want you to look down on me every day and be proud of me. I live life not only for myself but for you as well. Going on with life is hard to do after you lose someone so close, but I want to achieve the goals that I set for myself so that you can be proud of me. The reason I consider you my hero is you are always there for me still even if it is only mentally and spiritually. You showed a lot of courage continuing to live life like any other person, even though you knew what was going on. You have left so many lasting impressions on me that I really don’t know if someday I will ever be able to do what you did. You lost your battle with the cancer but you are a winner in my eyes. You lived a lot longer then you were given you were a fighter and you won because you didn’t let it bring you down, you didn’t quit you didn’t conform to what cancer wanted you to become. Now onto the successful part of your definition, you consider yourself unsuccessful. But when people are coined as “successful” you may agree with what that term means someone who has it all, someone who has all the money they can ask for and someone who is on top of their “WORLD”. But to me a success is nothing like that I think that term of successful is completely wrong. You are a success because you did everything you could for anybody or anyone; also you never quit you fought till you couldn’t any more. You are a hero I would not have gotten to this point in life without you and I will not get past this point if you aren’t going to help me finish it. You raised me, you taught me from a young age that I needed to push myself and strive to be the best in everything that I did and continue to do. You did more than you were “suppose” to and still you didn’t care you didn’t treat me like I was a pain in your life because you had to raise me. Something like that takes a lot of courage, but also it takes a lot of heart it takes a human being that is caring and loving to do that. Whenever I had a problem you were there to take care of it for me. Growing up isn’t very easy when you don’t have your parents around but they were busy doing what they had to do, you took me in and showed me what I had to do with my life. Words will never fully explain how much you meant to me and how much what you did for me meant to me. I regret never being able to tell you about this due to the fear that you would be upset with me for even thinking that you doing something for your grandson as an act of heroism. In the article The hero concept: self, family, and friends who are brave honest, and hopeful it states that a “prototypical hero is generally a family member” (Staats). That goes against your definition grandpa; I am trying to show you that you can be considered a hero in whatever way you want to be depicted as; I just want you to accept it.

When it comes to being a hero people say they have to be famous, but I have learned that in life if you pay enough attention to the people around you then you may find a hero out there. Not only were you a typical grandparent you are and were my hero. You did things that no other grandparents did. You raised me he taught me everything I needed to know, You gave me everything I needed to live. The media portrays heroes as people who have money and people who are on T.V, but they also contradict themselves when they say that we are lacking heroes in today’s society. Your definition may have some reasoning but when it comes to the fact that you are a hero I know you would not agree but my problem with that is I wish you could see that you have left many warm and guiding lessons of life for me to achieve what I know that I can reach. If I could see you for one day again, I would spend it not sitting there and telling you what I miss or what you are missing. I would tell you that I miss having the guidance and I would tell you how I really feel about you and how I really feel about what you have done for me. I am the person I am because of you, not because this is how I am supposed to be. You took something that wasn’t your own and you made it into something that is better than it could have possibly ever been. So again people in general, people in the media and you yourself may have a definition that is somewhat similar to the next. But for myself I have a completely different opinion of what a hero truly is. I really hope that this doesn’t make you mad at me and it doesn’t make you wish you wouldn’t have done these things for me. So the question in general may still be unanswered what is a hero? But I know what I believe is a hero and what I think a hero should be considered and should be modeled like. People will have their own opinions and they may be right who am I to tell them they are wrong. Go ahead and look for that superhero flying by, I know when I am addressing my hero I’ll look up at the sky but I’m not looking for superman, I’m looking for you grandpa.

Works Cited

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