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Into to college writing

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What is a father?

To My daughters father.  
 Ryleigh is a beautiful little girl already 18 months old. She was born March 30, 2009; she was 7lb 14oz, born at 7:20am. Her first word was ma-ma. She loves to color and play on mommy’s laptop. Ryleigh is the smartest little girl, she loves to tickle and she points out her tummy and her nose. She can put on her own shoes and socks and she sometimes even puts on mommy’s shoes. But you, her father, do not even know half of the things Ryleigh can do. You do not know how many teeth she has or what words she knows, you do not even know her, yet he considers yourself a father. You have not seen your daughter in months. You could not even give up your drinking or partying for your daughter so you are sitting in jail. Her second birthday is coming up and you will not be there because you will be in jail. You think just because you helped make her, you are a father. But I don’t see it that way! I believe a father is someone who is there for their child, watches them grow, supports them and takes care of them financially and emotionally.

Just because me and you did not work out, does not mean that you have to leave your daughter to. A real father would never do that; he would never just leave his kid because he does not have a relationship with the child’s mother anymore. You haven’t seen her since June when you went to jail. You went to jail because you hit me in front of Ryleigh and then you tried to bust my window when you know that glass would hit her. What kind of a real father does that? You and I will never work out and you abandoned your daughter because of that. You are not a father to her, she deserves better. You shouldn’t even be considered a father.

Ryleigh’s first birthday was amazing, she had friends and family over and she had a princess cake and tons of presents, but there was one thing missing, you, her father. Why? because you were in jail, yet again. You never stopped to think about how Ryleigh would feel before you broke the law. You just did what you wanted to do. You are supposed to be someone she looks up to. According to Paul Harvey, being a father is one of the best things in the world, they would do anything for their children and family, and are there for their children when the need them most. Harvey states "Knights in shining armor; fathers in shiny trousers. There's little difference as they march away each workday". Basically Harvey is saying that a father is a hero to a child, but they have to be there for them and protect them. I agree with Harvey that a father is a hero because my father is my hero, he was there for me and helped raise me, and he goes to work every day for me. But my daughter does not have that, you are not there for her, this is why I do not consider you a father.

You have never had a job and rarely ever attempted to get one. You had 9 months to find one before Ryleigh got here but you sat at home doing nothing. You dropped out of high school in 9th grade and have made no attempt to go back or even try to get your GED. You have paid child support only twice and you have never paid the full amount. When I was pregnant you bought only two outfits and paid for half of the crib. You had so many chances to make everything right and be there for your daughter but you didn’t. So why should you be considered a father? My definition of a father is obviously much different than yours. A father wouldn’t do half of the things you did knowing that they have a child at home that they need to support. You just expected me and my parents to do everything for Ryleigh while you did nothing. You are not worth of the title “Father”. You have never been one to Ryleigh and probably never will be.

Ryleigh may have your eyes and your lips but she deserves better than this. If you were any kind of a father you would know this. She deserves somebody there for her every day, play with her and laugh with her. Sheldon may not be her biological father but he does that stuff with her. He buys her whatever she needs, whenever she needs it. He cares about her and protects her. He is not trying to take your place as her dad but she may one day decide that she wants him to take your place. You never once considered Ryleigh your daughter anyways. The whole time I was pregnant you said “She’s not my kid!” I had to take a DNA test to prove to you that she was yours and even after that you still said that she was not your kid. A father does not do that; he does not say that his own daughter is not his, even after a DNA test. She will one day find out that you said these things, how do you think that will make her feel?

You used to say such horrible things about me and Ryleigh right in front of her and hit me right in front of her. She watched you hit me and cried and cried. You never once thought about Ryleigh’s feelings! You always yelled and screamed, it would scare her but you did not care. A real father would care about the feelings of his child and would never do anything to hurt their child or the mother of their child no matter what. Obviously my definition and your definition are completely opposite from each other. My definition proves that you are not a father at all and that you should not even get the privilege of Ryleigh calling you her father. That would be an honor that you have not earned. As stated on Mancouch.com, “Simply becoming a father does not make you a good father; he must also be part of raising his children. He must be there for his children and their mother. He must provide for his family. He must be a good example to his children. This is probably one of the most important things a man can do. Simply by loving his wife, and being kind to her, he can teach his children how a man ought to treat his family. By providing for them he can show them that a man ought to be responsible” (Mancouch). The quote that I just showed is not an explanation of you. The following paragraph would explain you a little better. ” A father who is not a real man will certainly fail in this area. No real man would ever leave his wife, and certainly he would not leave his own children. If he is cruel to his wife, or children, they will learn to fear men. If he does not provide for her and them they will think that men do not contribute, but merely stick around for the free ride. Often times his son will not respect women and his daughters will probably grow up to be feminist man-haters. This will not how it always happens, but it seems to be the norm based on my own experiences and observations” (Mancouch). The second quote above explains how you are. It backs up my definition that you should not be considered a father at all. You were cruel to me and to Ryleigh.

I believe a father is someone who is there for their child, watches them grow, supports them and takes care of them financially and emotionally. Every part of my definition rules you out as any type of a father. You have not been there for Ryleigh and probably never will be. You never took her emotions into consideration before you went out and did what you wanted to do. Being Ryleigh’s dad is an honor that you have not earned. You never considered her yours; you even said that she was not yours quite a few times. So in my point of view you wouldn’t be under my definition of a father.

From, Nicolette Horsley

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