

First Place

Helen Merino

Beyond the Dream-Cesar Chavez

Why? Why? Why?
Why did he cry?
Why did he care for the forgotten ones?
Why did he stand in those fields and cry out?
What did they deserve?
He who was born in a town under the sun?
He who stood for us, the forgotten ones.
He who worked for meager pay.
He who worked for less than he deserved.
Why was it he?
Why not another?
They were all alike.
Yet...
He stood for all of them.
He cried for all of them.
He loved all of them.
Why? Why? Why?
Why should I try?
I'm not great!
But...
As time goes by.
I realize that life...
Is just so short and too important to let by.
Why shouldn't I try?
I may be small.
But...
My words are strong.
Live for your life.
Live to serve others.
As Cesar Chavez did.

Second Place

Jessica Cervantes

My service leader is my bother Efrain. He is a 15 year old, goes to Gateway College and he is a sophomore. He has many things that he always keeps on trying and never gives up. He is my service leader because he changes peoples' life and his. My brother is also honest and has manners. He is a really respectful person especially to the older ones than him. My brother Efrain has a dream and his dream is to be an architect and I hope he accomplishes it, he shows how hard he is trying because he is always doing his homework.

My brother Efrain is a service leader to me because he is also neat, responsible, and has good feelings. He is really neat because in his folders where he puts his papers they are really organized and that's how he finds his work faster. He is a really nice person for his things he does and he is faithful. He cares about people and treats them the same and does not leave them without him or out of his mind. We should always try our best and not give up because have to make it to college.

My brother Efrain used to do drugs, alcohol, and other bad things. He never used to listen to my mom and used to rob cars but something made him change immediately. I love when he is in charge of his things but I know he won't do it again. Since he changed to be a nice person my parents and everybody got happy doing his homework and were surprised. My brother Efrain also changed my other brothers' life (his name is Jose) and started helping by making them responsible and go to school. Also we want my brother Efrain to accomplish his dreams. I know he will become an architect just as he dreams and he really shows it.

My brother is a really neat person especially in school. Some people think being neat is not really important but it is because you are successful in school or anywhere. Really neat is to turn your work really neat and not sloppy. My brother is also always prepared for class and is not late. He is organized and clean not only him but everyone. He should not be the only person that could do these things but they just don't want to show it. Everybody should be at least brave to do something good.

My service leader Efrain has a dream and his dream is to be an architect and I hope he really becomes it, he shows it because he is always doing his homework and getting straight A's. We should always try our best and not give up because we all have to make it up to college. I know and I can feel it that he can become an architect just as he dreams. Everybody should be at least brave to do something good. Well even though my brother Efrain had gone through a lot of stuff he always stayed loyal (faithful). Through all the thug life he has been in he changed and made a new life, he opened his heart and let god inside his heart but the thug would always stay in him.

Third Place

Rahul Kini

The Opportunity Giver

What is a hero? Is it only a person who takes a stand for justice when no one else has the courage to? No, I believe a hero can be a person who does as little as pick up the careless litter of those ignorant of their own environment. A true hero that stands out in my mind is Rama Rao, my father's old classmate in Rishi Valley School. He is a hero to many children, and continues to be one.

Rama and his sister, Padmanabha, attended Rishi Valley School at their young age, and are now MA-degreed teacher at the Rishi Valley Village School for the poor, Indian children who can't afford education. The Rao's founded this Rural Project and devised an impressive "Education Kit". The kit has been adopted by UNICEF, an international organization dedicated to help children in poverty. By demonstrating his loving care for those who he barely knows, he is a fantastic hero who is educated the lives of many and earning a tremendous influence.

Rama has also influence me to think about a unique ways of giving charity. I intend on supporting his cause by offering music classes to other children who cannot afford such luxuries in life. Rao's intent on increasing public literacy and writing abilities has made me conclude that I am fortunate to be living with decent public education. When money can be easily given, items, like books, can be found sacred to those who appreciate so little.