

2015 CHARACTER COUNTS! Adult Heroes in our Community
Essay Contest Winners

My Teacher Mrs. Kleinman

My name is Layla Calix-Martinez and I want to tell you something. My 5th grade teacher is Mrs. Kleinman. She's a super nice teacher. She has taught me new things like new stuff about math I never knew. She's respectful and responsible. Even if she's pregnant she manages to do everything. She has to do 28 report cards and has 28 papers to grade, and she can still do it. Mrs. Kleinman has to take care of her own kids. She has a 3 year old and a baby that's coming and she can do it. She's like a super hero. She's caring, trustable, and a super citizen. Mrs. Kleinman inspires me to do my work and homework and complete everything. She shows me and my peers to do our work and to listen and to be responsible, respectful, and ready to go. Mrs. Kleinman has made me a good student and a smart kid with lots of smart stuff. She is my role model and she will always be my role model. I am thankful to Goshen because they have given me the best 5th grade teacher in the whole world. She is like a super queen and an awesome person. Thank you Goshen for Mrs. Kleinman, she's a nice, pretty teacher. Thank you Mrs. Kleinman for being a good citizen and a good role model. You rock and you're the reason to come to school every day. That's why she's my role model.

Layla Calix-Martinez – Grade 5
Goshen Elementary School
Principal – Yolanda Allen
Teacher – Erin Kleinman

When I was four or five years old, I thought a hero was someone who had superpowers and defeated the bad guys. When I was ten, I thought a hero was someone who would put themselves in harm's way to protect others. Now I think a hero is someone willing to stand up for others and protect them. A hero in my life is my eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Redmond. Mrs. Redmond always arrives to school early so that she may help students practice or understand the lesson better. She is always willing to help others no matter what the question is. Mrs. Redmond is always respectful and doesn't make fun of someone because they ask "silly questions." She encourages students to keep asking questions. Mrs. Redmond always helps others in the school or at her home. She takes time in the summer to tutor kids and help them prepare for school. Mrs. Redmond is also very respectful because you can go talk to her about anything. She has helped many students get over problems at home, and doesn't blame anyone. Mrs. Redmond doesn't have favorites, and if she did, it would probably be the whole class. Mrs. Redmond has helped me personally get over things at home and is helping me become a better student. Mrs. Redmond has inspired many students to become better people by showing them right from wrong. She is a hero to everyone she has met and a great role model to learn from.

Rodrigo Jimenez – Grade 8
St. Martin of Tours School
Principal – Andrew Piotrowski
Teacher – Helene Redmond

Character Counts Essay

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live with a disabled person, and what type of influence it would have in your life? My uncle has a big influence in my life; he has the Character Count traits of caring, respect and responsibility. Caring, my uncle puts other people like my grandparents' needs in front of his. No matter, if he is struggling with an illness, he is always willing to help them.

Respect, my uncle respects everyone in the community just as he wants to be respected for being disabled. He always tells me that it is important to say thank you to everyone. Respect is a value that it is important to him. He personally influences me because when we go outside and bring him along, many people stop to say hi because they admire and respect him a lot, but there are other people who stare at him. I get disgruntled, but he does not care because he wants to be seen as normal as other people.

Responsibility, my uncle takes care of himself and he is always responsible for his needs. He is very independent even though he is disabled. He has taught me to be independent just as he is.

My uncle has given me the strength and will to do things in life no matter what happens. He always says to me and to everyone, if I can do many things with my paralyzed legs, you can do it. Everyone can do it no matter what.

Sophia Zavala - Grade 8
St. Martin of Tours School
Principal – Andrew Piotrowski
Teacher – Helene Redmond

My teacher Mr. Johnson is my hero. I feel that way because he's fair, responsible, caring, trustworthy, respectful, and a good citizen. He respects you. He doesn't judge a book by its cover. He takes time to get to know you. I think he's the only teacher that does. He puts in assignments right away. He's also fair. When he asks a question he won't choose people only in front or the back. He'll use calling sticks or call on the people raising their hand. Most of all he's caring. If he feels or sees a student having a rough day he'll talk to him. He always makes sure everyone is at the best they can be. I feel comfortable to talk to him if I have an issue and he's trustworthy, I know he'll keep it between us. In the classroom he's a hilarious teacher that can get us to work hard. I remember we did a play about gladiators that was fun. He explains topics so well that I always got an A. He goes out of the way for his students. He'll stay after school to help you. Aside from that he coaches school basketball, and softball. During softball after school and at games he challenges us to do our best. Even when we lost he makes us proud of our hard work. He's the funniest, you could find. He motivates me to do my best that's why I think he deserves the title "Adult Hero."

Jennie Hudson – Grade 7
Forest Oak Middle School
Principal – Dr. Arthur Williams
Teacher – Mr. Park

The important character who is very trustworthy in my life is my dad. My dad's name is Brice Jackson and he is the most trustworthy person I know. My father is always honest with me. Whether I ask for his opinion or not he'll be sure to give it anyways. But in a way it is good he gives his opinion on things like my clothes... I didn't really like that shirt anyways. My father is extremely reliable. He's never missed anything I've invited him to. I can always count on him to be there for me when no one else is. Mr. Jackson always has the courage to do the right thing, and if he doesn't do the right thing he knows to apologize. He's the type of guy to stand out of the crowd and swim against the ocean currents. He's not afraid to do what's best and I truly admire and respect him for that. If you're looking for a good reputation my father has already built a great one. He is a mentor in our neighborhood. A lot of the troubled teenagers know him and how he can help them. Also he is a football coach and spends a lot of time helping children develop the skills needed to play football. Overall, I think my father is a great influence in my life. I'm glad he's a part of my life, and I think he's great with or without an award.

Kendall Jackson – Grade 7
Forest Oak Middle School
Principal – Dr. Arthur Williams
Teacher – Mr. Park