

## “DEFYING GRAVITY” Essay Contest Finalist

### “Bullying Is Wicked”

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When I hear the word “wicked,” I think of the Wicked Witch of the West or Cinderella’s wicked stepmother. Wicked is not something I want to be known as. Bullying is definitely something wicked. Bullies enjoy being mean, rude, and putting others down. In my opinion, bullying is wrong. I don’t see what joy people get out of putting others down. Does it raise their self esteem? Does it make them feel superior? I’m not really sure, because I don’t like to bully people.

Bullying seems to be an epidemic America has to deal with and the rate of bullying seems to keep rising. Schools today are trying to cease bullying and kids know that it is wrong; but, some continue to bully to keep their “reputation” up. Anyone, of any age, race, gender, religion, etc. can be bullied. When kids think of others as outcasts, they tend to bully them because they don’t “fit in.”

Like many others, I have experienced someone being bullied in my lifetime. *When I see someone being bullied, it hurts me, knowing that someone else is being hurt. I try to stand up for those being bullied, take their side, and let them know that I am there for them and I am their friend.* Bullying is something that most people experience at one point in their lives, whether they were bullied, they bullied someone else, or they saw someone being bullied. Many kids choose not to make a change, or help someone, for fear of being bullied themselves. *I, on the other hand, don’t mind what the bully thinks of me after I stand up for the one who is being bullied. I want them to see that I am a good friend and that I will be there for them in a time of need. My hope is that, when the bully sees how I react to his actions, he will realize that being nice to someone is twice the satisfaction!*

Eradicating bullying requires that a person be courageous and stand up for what she believes in. She should not be ashamed and just be herself. I have loved the song “Defying Gravity” ever since the first time I heard it. The lyrics to that song are so inspiring; they could change someone’s attitude and outlook on life. The lyrics of “Defying Gravity” encourage people to stop behavior such as bullying, just to fit in or because someone told us to. We need to make our own decisions and be good people. We should be tired of being mean, we should want to be nice and make others happy. We may not be able to stop bullying forever, but even the smallest nice gesture can make the biggest difference. *Everyone deserves to live a happy life*

*and be an equal like everyone else. Kids in my generation should desire to change bullying. We are the future; we need to make a difference now. Teens should not be afraid to make a difference by themselves. They themselves are making a difference and that is all that matters. Being judged should not stop us from doing what is right. We should only hope that the one in the wrong will see a difference in us and want to change too.*

Bullying happens everyday. I have seen it happen at my school many times. There was a student that attended my school, in my grade, who suffered from Autism. He was bullied by a multitude of people. Little things he did made others feel the need to insult him. I was continuously disappointed by the actions of my peers. I would immediately take my classmate's side and stand up for him when he was bullied. I would encourage others to be nice to him because I knew how much it hurt him. He was different and my peers couldn't accept that. I didn't mind him being different; he was unique, and he was his own person. My mother works with special needs children and the bullying of my classmate "hit home." I was his friend when no one else was. I was put in a science class last year with him, along with many of my peers that bullied him. My teacher put me into a lab group with him and another classmate that was sometimes bullied. My hope was that she saw a difference in me that helped her to know that I would treat my classmates like normal people. I think she knew that I was one of the few that would be nice to them and accept them for who they are. I was friends with both of them and we all worked well in a lab group together. At the beginning of this school year, my fellow classmate moved to another state. He no longer goes to my school but I wish the best to him. I am hopeful that someone else at his new school will befriend him, as I did, and make a difference in his life and make him feel wanted and loved. Many other incidents have happened since then that I have tried to change and influence, but this was one that really weighed on my heart.

I choose to "Defy Gravity" everyday. I strive to be a good person to everyone around me. I smile and greet anyone who passes by me, in hopes that it will brighten his or her day. Knowing that I made a difference in someone's day brings joy to my heart. I don't let peer pressure influence me. No one is ever going to talk me out of being nice to others. I find happiness in being nice and bringing joy to others. That is how I Defy Gravity.