

Honorable Mention Prose – Middle School

“The Power of a Letter”

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Grade: 6

School: St. Francis Xavier

Nora's husband died six months ago. Despite having three grown children, Ashley, Olive, and Wesley, she was very lonely. To Nora nothing could beat being with her kids. Sadly, the kids didn't have the same idea. They had practically forgotten about their mother because they were caught up in the business of their own families. All of Nora's children had children of their own, which she had only met a couple of times.

One night Nora couldn't sleep. All she could think about was her empty space in her bed where her husband used to be, and how quiet the house was without the bickering of her three kids. She knew that there was no hope of falling asleep anytime soon, so she turned on a light next to her bed and got up to make a cup of tea. After a couple of minutes the warm water was done. She put the tea bag in and wiggled it around. Nora loved books so she thought that she would read for a little bit. Nora set down her tea and went to her bookshelf. When she tried to pull out a book, a big leather book next to it fell out instead. It was a photo album. She picked it up off the floor and slowly walked to her bed. She pulled the covers over her legs and looked at the first photo in the album. It was her favorite photo. It consisted of a man, a woman, two young girls and a small boy. All of them were staring towards the man with scrunched up noses.

Nora could remember the story of the photo like it was yesterday. She made bacon and eggs for breakfast with a side of homemade bread with jam on it. The aroma of the perfectly cooked bacon awoke her sleeping husband. She remembered the sound he would make when he was excited to eat something. After he set the table he went to wake up Ashley (who was the oldest), and Nora went to wake the twins Olive and Wesley. There was a bit of moaning but in the long run they got up. After they ate breakfast they got dressed in nice clothes that Nora made them. She gathered them up and they all went to the back yard. After a bit of running around in the field she got all the kids and walked them over to a big willow tree. Ashley told Nora it looked pretty, then she asked why there was a heart on it. Nora looked pleased by the question, she felt all warm and fuzzy inside when she told her daughter why the heart was there. She said that when her husband took her on a date they wrote their initials in the tree. Which was followed by an immediate “Ewww” from Ashley. The person who was going to take the photo had finally arrived and started to arrange where everyone should go. The photographer was about to take the photo when...

Nora's husband FARTED! Everyone stared at him and scrunched up their noses before they ran in all different directions. To Nora the best part was that the photographer caught their funny faces when she took the photo. She loved it so much that she didn't even want to retake it.

Nora started to remember how late it was. It turned out it was 5:30 the next day! After looking at the time she felt more lonely than ever. All she wanted was to drown herself in her family. All she could think to do was write a letter. She made three copies of the same letter with three copies of the funny picture and set one to each of her children's houses. She wobbled out to the mailbox and put them in.

1 Week Later

Nora checked her mailbox for seven days straight with nothing in it. On the seventh day she was walking back to her house when she heard the roar of a loud engine behind her. Three cars came up into her driveway.

All the doors opened at the same time. Two beautiful women and one handsome man jumped out, with a bunch of little children. It was Nora's children and their families with bags of food. They came up to her. The feeling of her children's warm embrace made Nora smile the biggest smile. As Nora held and hugged everyone of her grandchildren, she followed her children who were leading her toward a familiar willow tree with carved initials in it. Olive was getting a towel out and putting all the food on it.

They started eating the picnic when a person Nora had never met approached her. It was a photographer. She started to arrange everybody in front of the tree. After the photo was taken Nora was the first people to see it. Nora realized that where her husband would have been were his initials on the tree.

This became her new favorite photo. She put in the front of her photo album. Now she sees her children and grandchildren once a week, and is seldom ever lonely.