

Amber Roberts

The Times Leader

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High School  
Final  
#1



## “What I Learned Most”

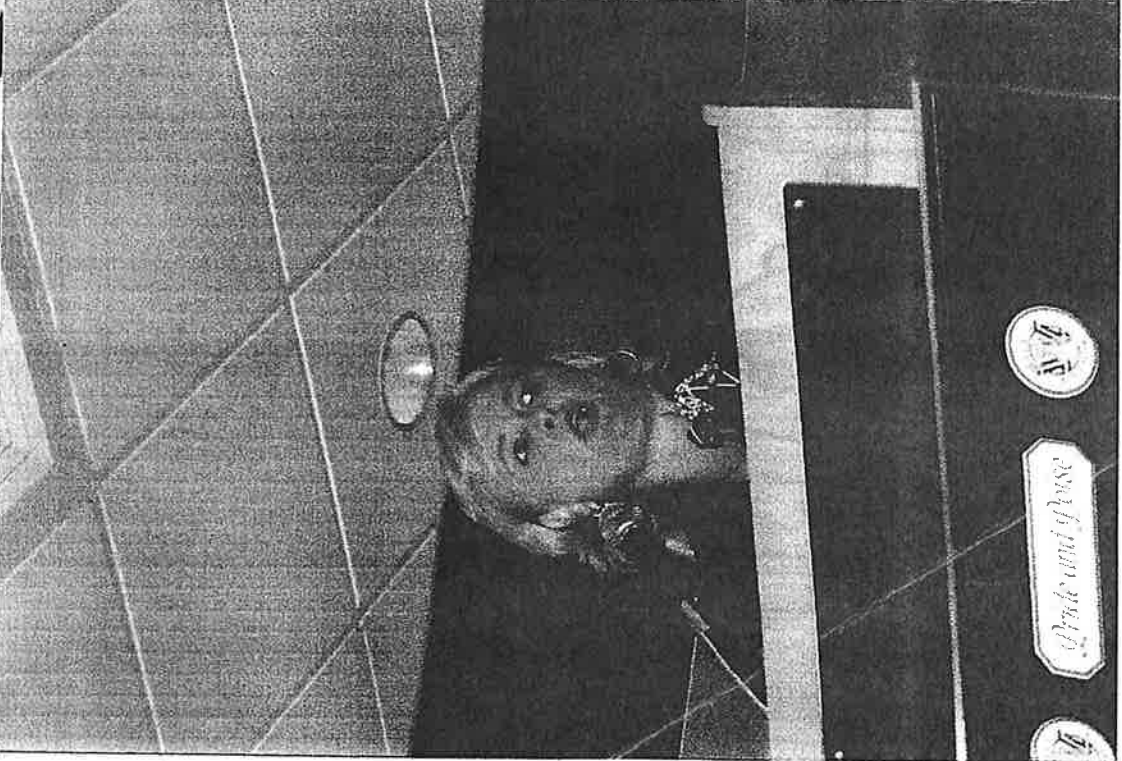
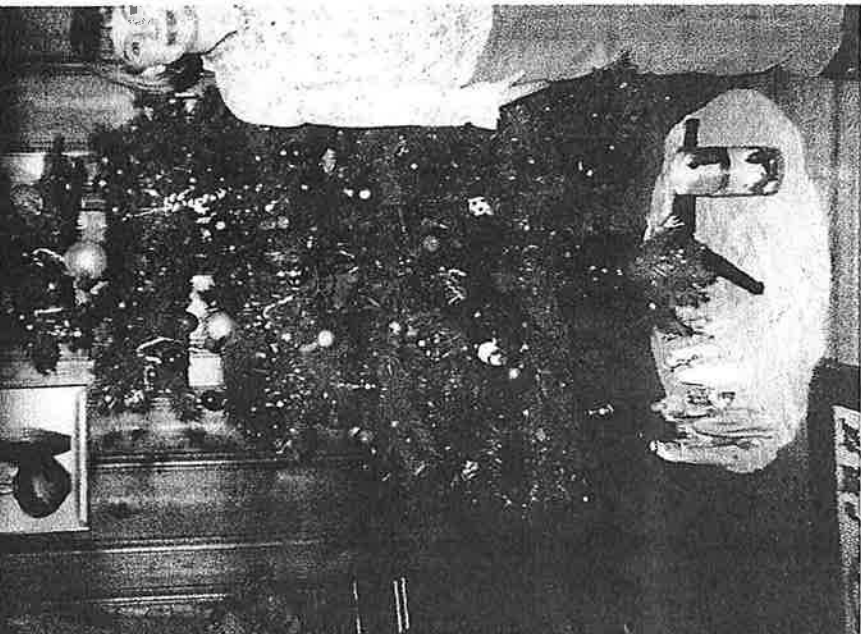
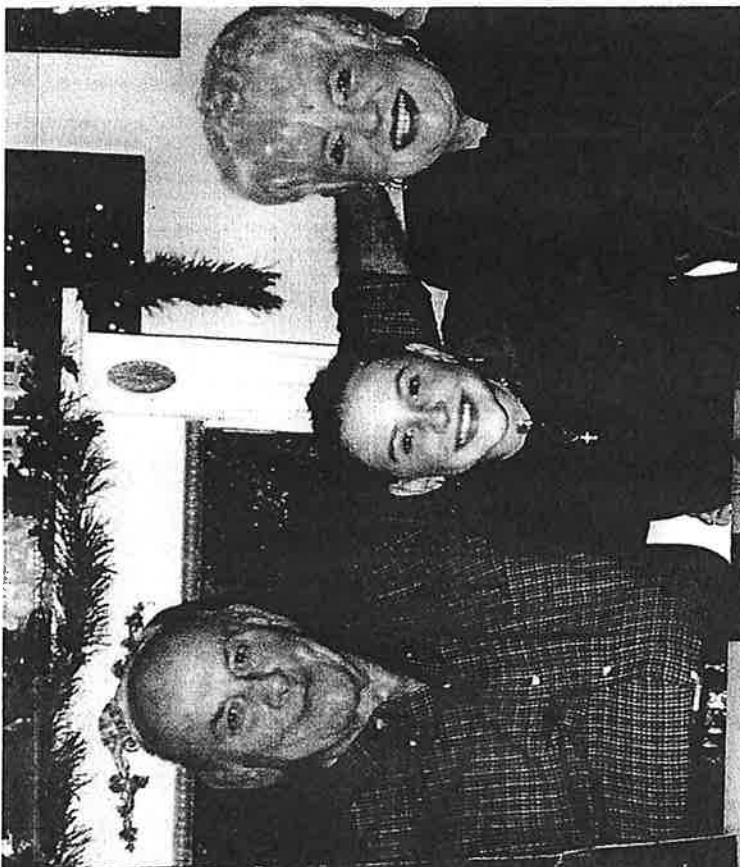
My name is Amber Roberts and unlike every other child's normal childhood growing up, mine was nothing even close to normal. I have had the craziest journeys to get to the place where I am today and I owe all of the thanks to my adoptive mother Nancy Roberts.

In 2003, I was adopted by my single foster mom Nancy. I had been with her since I was five and half years old and she adopted me when I was nine. My story may seem like any other story you would hear, but mine has been truly a wonderful miracle of a child and a regular woman's love and passion to take in, love, and treat a complete stranger as her own child.

Growing up at a young age I had parents who were into drugs and would abuse me both physical and sexual on a daily basis. It went for awhile until a neighbor found out and called the cops, which was the day my life would change forever. I had been in and out of foster homes pretty much all of my childhood not trusting a single person and not knowing what to call home. The last foster family I was with took me to meet Nancy, who would become my mother for good. The day is still so clear in my head, almost as if it happened yesterday, as if she was sent by god in the form of an angel to rescue me. It was a true miracle, and with the hold of a stuffed animal she got me in one arm, and her hand in my hand we set off to start a new beginning. When I first came to Nancy I couldn't even tell the difference between love or hate, or food from water.

The journey of love from Nancy and the trust she built with me had finally shown me that love and trust does exist after all. The nights I would wake up screaming and crying in fear from horrific nightmares and her comfort was her love for me. The nights I was scared to sleep in my own room and she would comfort me was her love for me. Teaching me right from wrong was her teaching me what love is all about. Without my mom as my role model, I still wouldn't have a clue what love is. She has taught me all of things I need to know in life and as a single parent with no help.

Today Nancy still continues to show and teach me new things about life and the person I am today, I owe it all to her and all the love she has shown me. My mom is truly an amazing person. I'm now seventeen and I am a sophomore at Dallas Senior High School and continue to shoot for the stars and achieve all of my hopes and dreams.



H.S.  
FINAL  
#2  
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Rismondo 1

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Rene Rismondo

Mrs. Honeywell/ Mrs. Pryor

World Literature I

10 February 2011

### What I Most Learned from my Parents and Grandparents

Life is too short. That is the greatest lesson that I learned in my life and this lesson was taught to me by my late Papa, John Hudak, whether he knows it or not. His untimely death two years ago taught me many lessons and values, but the most important one that I have learned was this.

Tragically, on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, John J. Hudak, my Papa, passed away unexpectedly. Unexpectedly...that is the key word to the story. A seventy six year old man that was in perfect health had passed away. It didn't seem to make sense to me, and to this day, it still doesn't. One minute I see him outside plowing snow or riding on the tractor, and the next, I receive this unexpected news.

For a time after, I was angry for many reasons; Angry because I lost a loved one. Angry I didn't get to say goodbye. Angry at God for taking an innocent life too soon. But beyond that, I was angry because he had so much more of his life left to live, and for me to live it to the fullest with him.

Reflecting back on the great memories that he and I shared, I realized maybe I was wrong, we had a great life together and he had lived a wonderful life himself. He was ranked Sergeant in the United States Army and had survived through tough times during the Korean War. He had married a wonderful woman and had two amazing children who went on to give him the pride of being a grandfather. He had been able to travel all around Europe, visiting every

country he ever dreamed of. He grew amazing gardens with my help and produced flowers and vegetables that never seemed to stop coming. So if he was happy with his life and all that he accomplished, then why shouldn't I be. It was a selfish act on my part to think of him not being there for me, when he had a wife, children and other grandchildren that also all deserved his time and devotion. But while he was walking here on earth, he made the best use of that possible time that he had left and had absolutely no regrets.

As you can see, life is indeed, just too short. It's too short to hold grudges, too short to worry, and too short to have regrets. We all must learn this and we should enjoy every minute of our lives while we have it...just like my Papa did.

"Every man dies, not every man really lives." ~*Braveheart* . I found this quote to hold true, for I have witnessed the tragedy of death, but the death of a man who enjoyed the significance of life. Thank you Papa.(465)

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What I Most Learned From My Parents or Grandparent  
Stormy Ruiz

H.S. FINAL #3 5

Most people would say that their parents and grandparents taught them how to tie shoes and it's okay to be different. Mine taught me these as well, but what I most learned from them is to not be afraid to stand up against the world alone.

Growing up, my mom was usually working and my father had left us when I was little, so I was with my grandparents quite often. The majority of the time, I didn't have anybody except them. They taught me everything, from how to read to always remember to hold my head up high and succeed.

In school, everyone always talked about their parents and how they always went out and did fun things with them. I didn't have that luxury, and when all my classmates started noticing it, they would laugh at me. Whenever I went home crying, my grandma would pull me into a big hug and tell me it's alright. This was when she'd teach me the biggest and most important life lesson I've ever learned; it taught me more in a half hour than all my years of school. She told me that it doesn't matter that my dad left or my mom can't be around all the time, what matters most is that you stand tall against the world, no matter if you're the only one standing, and NEVER let anyone pull you down; show you're stronger than all of them.

Going through my younger years, I never put too much thought into those words my grandma had said. Now, as I get older, I realize everything she had told me back then actually had a stronger meaning than I even could have thought at the time. At my age, nobody puts much thought into what they do, and many of them end up succumbing to pressures such as drugs and alcohol. Unlike them, I remembered everything that I had been told as a young child, and I stand up against the world, even though I'm almost alone.