

Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?

Today's world is one that isn't filled with overflowing joy. We must find things that bring us happiness. In the constant struggle of our everyday life, we need to have someone that can make us smile such as a friend, a peer, or family member. Happiness is rare these days, so when you find it, you mustn't let go of it.

I find it hard to make friends; it's like fruit picking. You never know what you're going to find. Some of the most beautiful fruit is rotten on the inside. Because it is so hard for me to make friends, I often prefer to just hang out with my sister and her cat, rather than going to a football game or school event. My everyday hero is very close to home for me; literally, my oldest sister Jillian, is my hero. We are the iconic youngest and oldest sibling match. Unexpected as it was, she is my best friend. With just a five-year age difference, we have matched personalities and the same childish humor. Ten-year-old me would have never believed that my oldest sister would turn out to be my best friend due to the amount of fighting and yelling that took place when we were children. There is still yelling, but not nearly as bad as it used to be when we were kids.

Jillian and I often go thrifting around town and drink Starbucks along with the occasional trip to our local Target. We don't usually have any money to spend, but we like to just look at everything and think we have money to buy it. As sad as that might sound, we find it entertaining. She never fails to make a joke worthy of making me collapse in the store from both embarrassment and laughter. We automatically have the most obnoxious laughs in the store. I know this because of the many judgmental and concerned looks we have received. On multiple

occasions her laugh might be compared to the sound of many tropical birds fighting, but no matter what we are doing, she always makes me smile.

A hero is someone who never puts themselves *first*, they always take care of everyone around them *first*. Jillian shows these traits every day. Our family is very important to her and she will always protect it. A hero is selfless, kind, and loving. They never fail to protect and care for everyone around them. Jillian is my hero for all the little things. Every school dance she does my makeup and takes pictures, she listens to me rant about every argument with my mom, she cheers me on at swim meets and she is almost like a mother figure to me. She even spent the day with me when our grandpa passed away. She was with me through everything. Even when she had her own friends, she would always make time for me. I remember when she was in high school; she would take me to Taco Bell and we would sit in the trunk of her Subaru Forester and eat the treats in the parking lot. Those Taco Bell trips are warm memories for me. It's just what siblings do. Every time that I have an assignment at school about someone I admire, I always showcase Jillian because she is the first person that comes to mind when I think of someone positive in my life.

As hard as it is in today's society to find hope and joy, we must look to the people around us. Real joy comes from love. Not everyone can say that they get along with their siblings because it is hard to live with them and still respect them after you see their habits or the way they live. I can honestly say that I respect my sister more than anyone I know. Hero's go unnoticed sometimes, so it's important to recognize them and I would love to give a shout out to my hero: Jillian.