

Personal Narrative

Name Last Name

English Composition

Instructor: Lynda Gordon

06/02/2021

Personal Narrative

I have never really known how selfless I am but I know that I have the best example that I set for myself even though it was something that happened a long time ago. People are a cocktail of personality traits and it is interesting to find out the various layers that they are made up of. There are instances throughout one's life that determine one's outlook on life and the principles that one will adhere to and what they will believe in. This particular incident is from my childhood and has always served as an anchor point for me when it comes to how I would want to treat people. I believe in empathy and selflessness and even though I do not always live up to it, I still rely on this incident to keep me on track.

The actual event involved my younger brother and I when we were about seven and ten respectively. My parents often gave us a lot of freedom and we were able to wander further from home than most kids my age. We would at times go to the library together which was quite some distance from where we lived but we both had bus passes and could travel easily. For the most part, we would each carry our pass but on this day I had them both. This was not ideal as on this day on going to the library, I misplaced them and we ended up stranded in the city and with no means of going back home. However, I only had enough spare change for one of us to ride the bus but not for both.

I used to be very shy and would not have been able to ask for help. However, I came to learn two things about myself that day. One, I am capable of sacrificing for people I love or feel responsible for. And secondly, I can be determined almost to the point of being stubbornly obtuse. Upon realizing only one of us could ride the bus, I made a quick judgment call and opted for my younger brother to ride the bus home and I would begin the long walk at the same time. He could get home and inform whoever was home that I was walking and they could come get me along the way. It seemed the most logical option at that point and did not even feel like I was doing something selfless.

My parents found me after I had walked a few blocks and I got the relief of a car ride home. I expected to be yelled at but they told me they were surprised at the choice I made to make sure my younger brother made it home and that I would shoulder the responsibility and burden of the mistake I made in losing the passes. The pride they showed in me informed me that it was a good thing I had done and it became a learning moment for me. I have always tried to live up to the example my younger self set for me as in that moment I did what felt was right and it ended up being a sweet gesture of sacrifice and selflessness. I believe that a little humility goes a long way with people.

As an adult it is difficult to remain as optimistic as one's younger self is but I feel that there are lessons in childhood that shape one's future personality. The way one grows up and the values that are instilled at an early age make a significant impression on what one becomes in the long run. As such, this incident remains one of my main learning points and a significant expression of who I would like to be in the future. I would like to try to remain at the core a person who is empathetic to the people around me and to always try and be selfless make sure

that I am a benefit to those in my life and make sure that I take responsibility for my actions regardless of their impact.