

A. Johnson

Of all the people in my life, the one person who has inspired me the most is...

My parents have been the most influential people in my life. They have taught me some of the most valuable lessons a teenager could ever hope to learn; lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Not only have they done this, but they also have had a great part in shaping me into the person I have become. Although I know now there were reasons behind everything they did, as a child I did not always understand why my parents disciplined me. Childhood is a time of development and learning, and we will continually learn from our mistakes in life.

Why can't I just live with my parents the rest of my life? The answer to that question is very simple. The process of growing up is very much like learning how to ride a bike as a child. There comes a certain point in life when the training wheels have to come off. As soon as I had enough practice with them, the training wheels came off and never used again. Daddy held the seat while I was riding and helped me keep my balance. As soon as he decided I was ready, he let go of the seat and I was soon riding by myself.

Daddy has served in the U.S. Air Force for almost 26 years and Mama has always been right there beside him. If I had never moved as many times as I have or met the people I have met, I would not be who I am today. I have always been proud of my dad for his leadership skills and good character. He has even won an Air Force award for Excellence in Leadership. He has taught me how important it is to be myself instead of trying to impress others by pretending to be someone I am not. His patriotic attitude and dedication to serving our country have always inspired me. My hope is to follow his example.

Mama has always been there to support my brothers, my little sister, and me in our schoolwork and other things. She always has listened to us when we have needed to talk with her, and made sure that we learn from our mistakes whenever we have gotten into trouble. In addition to this, Mama has always encouraged me to do my best in everything I do, which is why I think she is extra special.

I am truly grateful to have my parents' love and support. No matter how much I have messed up or how many times I get on their last nerves, they always have a place for me in their hearts. I guess I will not know how deep their love is for me until I have my own kids, and maybe then, I will see things from their point of view.