Duffy Martin

Ms.Barrett

English 7

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Everything I Want To Be

I remember sitting in my room surrounded in the motionless dark; only my own late night coughing shattered the silence. Everyone else in my house was asleep, and I didn’t dare wake any of them up. It was Sunday night and everyone needed a good-night’s sleep to be ready for school the next day. In between coughs, I heard the opening of a door and the rustle of socked feet. A dim light flooded into my pitch-dark room. “Honey,” my mom softly whispered as she tip-toed over to my loft-bed side, “You sound awful. Sit up and take a drink, okay?” Mom lifted my head and rubbed my back as I gulped down the water. We sat in the dark for about ten minutes as she quietly drew circles on my back with her palm, her paint -splattered floral pajamas smelling musty. She yawned and checked my forehead as I handed her back the bottle. “Ugh you have that fever again. You can sleep in, I’ll call the school.” After she kissed my forehead and wished me good-night, I reluctantly lifted my head to check the time on my alarm clock. It was three in the morning, and she had to wake up at five.

Mom is a tall, built woman with curly dark brown hair that she keeps short and tight. Her ever-changing hazel eyes demand the truth. She has rough hands made for holding, and painted pink nails. Her mouth is a blur as sarcastic comments spin of her tongue like fiery bullets. She wears light, spring colored vests with soft cloth pants and brown clogs. Her lips are painted a soft pink and are always curled up in a natural, soft grin that’s contagious like a wildfire. Mom’s face is round and has chubby red cheeks. She’s always waddling around on her enormous feet, like a duck on skis.

When Mom was only in college she learned that you have to make the best of life and think twice before making serious decisions. My Mom’s uncle, Paul, struggled with a drug addiction after returning from war for all of my Mom’s childhood, and when she was in college he passed away. Also one of my Mom’s friends passed away after she was hit a drunk driver. After that my Mom vowed to never drink and drive and to be careful with drugs and alcohol. She learned to make the best of the time you have with the ones you love. My Mom’s parents taught her to always help others and to be respectful. My Mom is a special education teacher that spends her whole life helping kids who struggle with disabilities. She is a devoted teacher who finds hope in a child, when others turn a blind eye. She cares for her students as if they were her own children. Mom realizes all that she has to be thankful for, and also she appreciates everyone. My mom always says, “You don’t need a lot of money to help others.”

My Mom taught me that I shouldn’t think about what we don’t have, but embrace what we do have. She introduced me to Relay for Life, which I have participated in every year since I was only one year old. Also Mom has all of my family participated in Church food drives, tag sales and lunches for people in need. Whenever I complain about someone I don’t like or think they are making bad choices, she always tells me not to judge them because I don’t know what it is like at home for them. She taught me to be accepting of others differences and to be patient. I will always aspire to be everything that my Mom is.

**Person of Influence – Analysis of Sample Essay**

for Wednesday: Read and mark up the essay on the front of this sheet. What do you notice? Underline and reflect on at least eight spots in the essay. What kind of information is being included? What do we learn from particular lines? What do we know about the author and her mother? Where and how does the author use figurative language?

for Thursday: Fill out the organizer below.

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| What does the author tell us directly about how her mother has influenced her? | | What does the author tell us indirectly (through actions and interactions) about how her mother has influenced her? | |
| Write one sentence that summarizes what we know about the mother’s influence on her daughter through direct and indirect characterization. | | | |
| Pick three short phrases that are extremely descriptive. Quote and discuss the meaning or impact of each phrase in the spaces below. | | | |
| phrase #1 | phrase #2 | | phrase #3 |

For Friday, write a paragraph that answers the question: How does the author’s mother influence her worldview in Duffy Martin’s autobiographical essay, “Everything I Want to Be”? Use three specific examples from the text and two or three direct quotations to support your claim.