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14

8th Grade

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What is a hero? For some people, it is someone who saves lives, or a person who changes lives. Well, the actual definition of a hero is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. I believe that a hero is a role model; that your goal is to be like them. What is a hero to you?

My hero is someone of whom I deeply trusted, Laura Sperry. She may not have done anything extremely extraordinary, but she is still important to me. Laura Sperry took care of me when I was younger. She taught me how to read and other life lessons. She lived a life of adventure. Laura Sperry influenced my life and all the lives of the other kids she took care of.

Laura Sperry, or Grandma Laura, as all of the kids called her, ran a daycare singlehandedly. She practically raised me. Grandma Laura taught me many things, specifically, important lessons and how to read. She taught me how to read when I was three years old. She is most likely the main reason as to why I love to read so much today. She also taught me other things, such as, how to work hard and be productive, how to share, and how to experience nature. I remember in the summer, we would just spend the entire day outside. All day, every day. Whether it be gardening, running through sprinklers, or playing on a swing set, we would always have fun. Laura definitely lived a life of adventure. Laura loved to ride her horses. She would always take them out on trails. When kids at her daycare got to a certain age, she would let them ride her most tame horse, Doc. I remember when I rode Doc, I felt like I was on the top of the world.

Laura Sperry isn't with us anymore. She passed away a few weeks ago from either a stroke or a seizure. I'm not sad, though, because I know that she lived a very fulfilling life. I don't know where she is now, but I know that I will always remember her.

Laura Sperry had no outstanding achievements and she didn't win any awards, but I still admire her. I have so many fond memories from attending her daycare and I am certain that I will always remember a few of them. I am so blessed to have known this woman and I am grateful to her for teaching me one of the best ways to live, fully.