

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Someone on Earth Called My Name

(Original)

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Once upon a time, an eight week old puppy crawled into my life and five days later, he left and became an angel. What made his departure hurt so much was that he truly wanted to stay. Not a single moment did he rest to stop fighting the devil who was trying to take him away. Everyday he would give us hope by trying to stand up and play. We all thought he could conquer the illness until the day his four legs wobbled so much that he finally fell and laid still as a stone. Fate has brought us together but it was not meant for him to stay. So what is the meaning of life when a soul barely has an opportunity to see the world before having to leave? Perhaps every life was sent down to Earth with a mission of leaving a footprint whether on the planet or in our hearts. Perhaps everything on Earth is created by an endless collection of footprints.

The puppy that accompanied me so briefly in my life taught me a lesson about love and loss. Life is a beautiful journey and a companion may join us only for a moment in time. One can never predict when it's time to go, so we must live every moment wholeheartedly. Once our life's mission is accomplished, we pass on the opportunity of loving this world to the next generation. He was his best self while he still had the ability to do so. He was a good puppy. He potty trained himself, learned where his bed was, and always responded to my sadness with a hug. He left beautiful footprints in our hearts. In return, all I could offer him were my tearful eyes. I was not being my best self. Letting go can be painful when it is time to say goodbye but the ones departing have already completed their mission if there's someone missing and remembering them here on Earth.

In our lives, there are times of laughter and times of sadness. Some people work days and nights to keep a roof over the family's head. Others go against the world fighting for their morals and beliefs. Just as I knew the puppy would eventually die but I refused to face the

inevitable till fate tore us apart. I would still love him till the end of time. I believe everyone of us has something or someone we have committed to love and protect, and that is what provides value and meaning to our lives. Life is an opportunity for us to love without conditions or regrets, and our willingness to give all of ourselves for what we love is what makes this world beautiful.

Life allows us to leave our footprints onto this beautiful world and within the hearts of everyone whom we encounter. The footprints represent the stories which we have created during the time that we were here, and perhaps those footprints also define the meaning of life. We do have the power to choose how we wish to leave our footprints. Living our lives to the fullest means never giving up when chasing our dreams and fulfilling our promises, confessing our feelings to those who mean the world to us while we have the chance to do so, do all the stupid things we love, and most importantly, be our best selves around all those whom we love. Having done all that, saying goodbye to the world would not be as difficult as it might seem to be. Although I'm deeply saddened that my beloved pet passed away, I am comforted by knowing that I have loved him to the fullest when given the chance. I have no regrets as I truly cherished every shared moment and the memories will always invigorate me to be my best. When we open our hearts and treat everyone with love and sincerity, that is when the dots truly connect and the events we experience define our lives.