



# 2018 CSCGP High School Teen Essay Contest

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## A Life Changed Forever

When I was 8 years old, I went through the toughest challenge I ever had to face in my life. My best friend, biggest supporter, and the person that loved me the most passed away in October of 2009. Lung Cancer affected not only me, but my family's life forever. This is our story.

My mom, the most kind hearted, lovable soul on this planet was diagnosed when I was only in the second grade. I remember sitting at the dinner table with my mom, dad, brother, and sister just being told the news that my mom had cancer. Right away, I thought she was just sick with something as little as a cold. I was very young at the time and didn't understand exactly what cancer was or what it could do to someone. I grabbed her hand and made her sit on the couch. I propped her feet up on a few pillows and tried to take care of her. Thinking that what I was doing would help make her feel better. As time went by I started to learn more and more on how serious and scary this was. My mom lost all of her hair. She was always at the hospital or not feeling to well. I remember staying up at night with my dad taking care of her. No matter the pain she was in, she would always hide it to not scare us. She was always there for us even

though she was going through this deadly illness. She was in pain but she still wanted to see my brother, sister and I grow up and watch us be happy.

I remember coming home from school and my whole family being over spending every second with my mother. When the cancer got worse, my mom was very weak and had to stay in bed. I'd always spend my time with her too because I am her baby and I saw how much pain she was in even though she tried her best not to show it. One time in second grade, our parents came in for our Halloween party. My mom lost all her hair and decided to wear a Jamaican, Bob Marley, dreadlock wig to my class. She was the goofiest ever and always tried to make me smile. She is the strongest person I know and I aspire to be just like her and leave as much greatness in this world as she did.

When the cancer got worse, my brother sister and I were in the hospital almost every day. When I was in school, I would always be with the guidance counselor. When I was younger, I loved to draw and write. When I was with my guidance counselor I made little paper books explaining how I felt and what I was going through. At such a young age, I became an author and published my books on a website. My guidance counselor helped me combine all of my paper books into one and we found a way to publish it. The book is called "When Someone Has Cancer and Dies: My Moms Story."

So yes, when I was in third grade my mom passed in October when the cancer spread throughout her body and she could no longer fight. I remember seeing her last and she was too weak to even speak. The kids in my family got the terrible news when my dad and all of the adults came back home from the hospital. I was the first kid to find out my mommy had died today.

When I was young, I always acted so tough and strong. I would never cry to show everyone how tough I was. At my mother's funeral, I remember telling myself to not shed a tear because I should be strong. Before the funeral, I got to see my mom one last time. My dad was holding me and told me to give her one last kiss. I still remember what she looked like lying there till this day. The funeral was full of people. So many people I never even seen. My mom was the most beautiful person I ever met and I try to be like her everyday.

Going back to school was weird for me. All the kids crowded around me wondering where I was for so long. Learning to live my life without my mom was so hard to get used to. My dad was so strong for all of us. He tried his best to make us happy and be there for us. I wouldn't be the girl I am today without him. I learned that it is okay to miss your loved one and cry if you have to. I learned that they may not be here, but they will always be in our hearts. Last, I learned that everything will be okay and my mom will never be forgotten. She is a loving mother, sister, daughter, aunt, wife whose hearts she touched forever.