

Melia Beccard
October 12, 2011
Grade 6

Find Happiness in Everyday Things

This essay is dedicated to my loving mother

Melia Beccard

On that cold winter evening about three years ago, right after dinner my mom, Jennifer and dad, Bob called my sister, Marissa, and I over to the family room to sit on the couch. As I was walking over, I could still smell the lingering wafts of our delicious dinner, and I could almost hear the laughs that we shared ringing off the walls. When I walked in I could feel the warmth emitting from the fireplace. Even the cat was there sitting on the rocking chair next to the couch and the dog was lying on the floor beneath her. My sister was already sitting on the loveseat close by and looking expectant. I was not tuned into the looks on my mom and dad's faces before the discussion began. But it was then that they broke the news to us: Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. I remember that Mom tried to keep the talk focused to what the cancer was and how it would be treated. She tried to keep the discussion positive, not depressing. My mom told us that we might have difficult times ahead but that we would still find happiness in everyday things.

As she told us what might be going on during the next year or two, she tried to make us laugh or smile. She even suggested that if she had to go through chemo-therapy, she said "maybe I will dye hair pink and cut it short and spiked." My sister and I laughed. We could tell that she was trying to tell us "we can still keep life fun if we just try." That night we were all quiet and scared but none of us dared show it just in case that we might start the whole family crying.

Melia Beccard
October 12, 2011
Grade 6

After about a year mom was finished with treatment and hadn't had any chemo (Marissa and I were a little depressed that she never had pink hair). The family would laugh with my mom about her scars and other things that had happened during her journey. She even told us about the time she was just coming out of her anesthesia and started babbling to the nurse about why she voted for a certain candidate. That brought on a lot of smiles and laughs. My sister and I shared some funny things that our dad did for us while she was in the hospital. Like the time my dad bought us chocolate cereal that my mom strongly discouraged. Those amusing little things made all the difference to my family.

Now my mom is three years out from her original diagnosis and is cancer free. Even today I try to find happiness in little everyday things. The lesson my mom taught was very valuable to my life and has impacted me deeply because I realize that you can find happiness every day in almost everything. I even think that my mom's sickness has brought my family closer together because we learned that family means so much and that we can get through anything together. Through those hard times that my mom and my family were going through, we laughed and smiled to make the moments softer. Through the sick times, the difficult times, and even the easy ones you can always find happiness. To be happy is to be content with life.