

MINERAL AREA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

2020 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST
WINNER

Theme: The Journey

10th - 12th Grade Essay

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The Journey

This journey starts in a small town in the 1960s with a young girl and a young boy who have no idea that their lives are about to be changed forever. The boy, John Shelton, was having a rough day at the grocery store as a cashier when he noticed a beautiful girl walk in. She had long, brown hair and stunning blue eyes. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.

As she walked around the store looking for bread and eggs, he thought to himself, *How have I never seen her before?*

After she found what she needed, she headed to the counter to check out. "Is this all for you today?", he asked confidently.

"Yep, that'll be all," she replied.

As he scanned her items he asked, "It's a small town, how have I not seen you around before?"

Olivia answered, "I just moved here, I'm Olivia by the way, Olivia Johnson."

"I'm John, nice to meet you, Olivia Johnson," he said excitedly. After he finished ringing out all of her groceries, she paid, grabbed her groceries, and walked out the door. As the week went on, he couldn't stop thinking about Olivia. A few days later, John had another shift at the grocery store. As he worked all he could think about was Olivia. He hoped that she would come back to the store, but as time went by and there were only twenty minutes left before the store closed, he started to lose hope. As he was thinking about what could've been, she walked in.

Their first date was a drive-in movie, "Mysterious Island" which was the movie playing. After getting their popcorn and candy they found their spot and sat in the bed of John's truck. "Beautiful evening!", Olivia says. John nods his head in agreement. They both enjoyed the movie and had a great time together. John drove Olivia home afterward and walked her to the door. John said goodnight to Olivia and left. They went on many more dates after that and started to fall in love with each other. They continued their adventures together throughout the summer and spent every minute together. By Christmas, they were deeply in love and John decided to take that big step. John presented Olivia with an engagement ring. Olivia eagerly accepted the proposal and three months later, they were married. It was

a small wedding and reception, just family and close friends. They were so excited to start their life together.

After the wedding, they moved into an apartment behind the grocery store John worked at. Once they were financially stable, they discussed starting a family. They both wanted kids, so a year later they had their first child, Christopher Shelton; they were ecstatic about having their first child. Olivia found a job at a doughnut shop while she attended college to become a midwife. A year later, Olivia got an internship in another town, so they moved to Ste. Genevieve. Olivia enjoyed working at the hospital and a few weeks after moving, she found out she was pregnant with her second child. John and Olivia were thrilled that she was expecting and couldn't wait to welcome another baby into the world. Eight months later, they received some terrible news, the baby wasn't going to make it. Olivia was too far along in the pregnancy, so she still had to deliver the baby. It was a very depressing time for everyone and John and Olivia were very discouraged. They tried their best to stay strong for their son, Christopher and continue their careers. Once they had grieved for a few years, things started to look up. They had another child, Kyle Shelton and Olivia started her career as a midwife. John was also moving up in the world, his new job at a lumber company was going very well. After only being there for a year, he was the branch manager.

As their children Christopher and Kyle were getting older, they decided they wanted to have one more child. Their last one was a girl named Katie Shelton. All three of them got along well and loved growing up together. The Shelton family went on a lot of adventures together and grew very close. Then, one at a time, the children graduated and started families of their own. After all of the kids were out of the house and had their own families, Olivia was offered a job in a different state. John and Olivia debated on whether or not they should move or stay, but ultimately decided that it would be best for them if she took the job. They bought a beautiful house and lived there for ten years while Olivia continued to pursue her career.

John and Olivia were very happy but missed their children and grandchildren. After ten years, Olivia decided to retire and they moved closer to their family. They moved onto a seventy acre farm and

built a large and very stunning farm house. They became very advantageous and loved where their life had taken them. They had farm animals and their children and grandchildren came to visit them all the time. Now John and Olivia are living on their farm and are the happiest they have ever been.