

Father's Day Short Story Competition

Maliah Ettienne

My Dad - My Hero



If there is one thing that a child is entitled to, it is the ability to confer the title 'Dad' with whomsoever they wish. The fact is that any man is capable of producing sperm and can be a sperm donor, but a father who can actually attain the title of dad is a rare sighting. Who knows? ... maybe any father who puts in even just half the effort could gain the honorable status, but not many men even try. That makes me wonder how I could be so blessed with an altruistic hero - my dad.

What is the difference between a father and a dad? A dad is someone to admire, someone who provides guidance and the needs of life selflessly for his children or child. On the other hand, a father is simply someone who plays a part in the creation of a child. My dad exceeds the expectations of definitions that can be provided by man-made software. There is no 'one size fits all' for heroes. Like my dad, they come in many, many different shapes, colors, and even clothing

styles of course - including the cape.

They say not all heroes wear capes, but when it comes to my dad? - My dad indeed wears a cape! Not a physical, and visible one, but a cape of protection, motivation, and love. I also must commend him for his profound tolerance. To be honest, I cannot foresee myself being so patient with a child like me, but my dad finds the patience somewhere. Yes, I admit that I can at times want my way and he can get infuriated with me, but he will soon lose his anger and I'd like to think that he remembers how sweet of a child I am. I would deny any application for a hero that is not my dad.

My dad is my hero simply because he saved me. That's what heroes do right? But from what exactly? No, not from a big accident that caused me to come close to my demise or from a bully who hasn't gotten with the times, but from what might come, from what neither of us could even see. I often see my agemates struggle with their self-worth, I them seeking validation from empty sources with cheap compliments and I never really did understand why. When you have a dad like mine, who lets you know that you're gorgeous no matter what, who lets you understand that you don't need to seek validation from anyone at all; those empty compliments will be of no effect on your self-worth.

In closing, some people may ask why he? Why my dad? Why not a handsome boy down the block, or my best friend? Well, my dad is my hero because he stayed. He could have left at any time, but

Father's Day Short Story Competition

he has proven time and time again that he wants to be in my life, and that surpasses anything that a boyfriend or best friend could ever provide. My father, my dad, my paracetamol, my blessing, and my hero- and that's how it will remain.