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English 10A

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My Life-Changing Move of 2017

It all started when a harsh wind storm came in the year of 2015. The storm blew over hundreds of trees leaving us in the center of the debris in our trailer home in Keller Washington. Then, a daunting fire accurately named “The Devil’s Elbow” decided to chase us away to the safety of my grandmother’s house. After we returned to our home and saw that all the land around us was burnt and ugly, we decided then and there we needed to move. This move was exciting to 12 year old me, but I never knew the impact it would have on me later on and who it made me become.

After about 1/3 of a year of waiting to sell our home, we finally did. We went through a series of weeks of packing up and moving it all the way from Washington to Idaho to a storage unit we had. It was a brutally hard experience that made me realize really what my family could do together when we all helped. Parts of our family came from all over to help us move and it really taught me that our family would always be there for us and that it was something that couldn’t be broken. During this process, we were struggling to find a house to buy in Idaho. When we finally found a lot and the house we wanted, we had to find a place to live in the meantime.

Buying a camper as a house wasn't my typical idea of a home, but it worked out. We moved in to our fifth wheel at an RV park that was relatively low on pricing. Through the 5 months we lived there, it really brought me closer to my parents. No, not physically because we only had elbow room, but because I could observe them closely and it brought us all together more. During the winter, we battled the freezing pipes, frost on the walls, and multiple heaters thrown on the floor that did everything but keep us warm. Finally, the house was built and we moved in. However, as we move in and get settled, the pressure of a new school, new roads, new people, and new friends started to settle in.

I was enrolled into Lakeland Junior High in my seventh grade year. I thought nothing of it until it came the day to actually go to school. I still remember that day. Tile floors, curious faces, new locker combo, and new classes. The teachers weren't bad but only one changed my view of school. Her name was Mrs. McLean teaching Math. She showed me that school was something important and there were much more positives in doing it well rather than not. As I got settled in with the new school and new surroundings I had, I began to change as a person who really wasn't me. Through all the pressure of other people's opinions, judgments, and thoughts, I became someone who just adapted to whatever the other person wanted to see. It wasn't until I finished the 8th grade when I realized that I couldn't make it to high school in that environment.

Through summer break, I went through all kinds of different emotions. From I don't want to leave my friends to I don't want to go back to that horrible place. I knew from the high school orientation that it was going to be much harder to strive there rather than somewhere else. I was sick to my stomach nervous about high school until a friend of mine who has been with a school called Connections Academy all her life shared her school experience. She said that it was a very

good school and it was highly ranked. Of course, that got my parents intrigued. So, my parents looked into it and both decided it was okay. However, it was my father who needed to be convinced more. I expressed my feelings of being able to go my own pace at this school and not be rushed by other people or held back by them either. Eventually, I was enrolled.

The first year of the homeschool came in with its struggles but mostly with advantages. I struggled to adapt to the curriculum but eventually got the hang of it. As I got to have a lot of time alone, I had the time to really focus on myself and who I was becoming. I didn't like having to change feelings or emotions just because someone else expects that of me. I decided that I would start being myself and acting on my own emotions rather than others. It was a long process of testing different personalities and aspects of emotions that lasted until the end of 2018 where I finally found who I was. Now, if I look at old photos or something that I've said a year or two ago, I usually think, "I would never say that" or "Oh man how embarrassing." Now, I've built many friendships with people and it's a lot easier now because I know who I am and how to talk with people who may not always agree with me. I'm still changing, but I now know that I can make it regardless of other people's thoughts.

After the move of 2017, I've been through a lot. From packing to unpacking, adapting to many different environments, and learning about who I am as a person. I could not have done it without the move and I have no idea who I would be without it. It came with its difficulties but it came with many more advantages that changed me in many different ways that eventually gave me a true understanding of who I am now. And I'm happy with it.