FINALIST

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Finding Courage Within Fear

Courage is a trait that has changed throughout the years. As the times change, so does its definition. This concept of courage not only transforms as the clock ticks, but it is seen differently through each individuals eyes. The stereotypical version of courage may be a superhero, saving victims when they are helpless. This belief is over exaggerated, but I consider the plain and humane idea behind the gaudy hero a great illustration of courage. The hero took action when they thought it was necessary, ignoring fear and hesitance, doing what they deemed right.

Though superheroes may not exist, there is a little piece of a hero in everyone. Ignoring fear and following what one believes is right is courageous. Standing up for someone who cannot defend themselves is brave. Respecting others opinions and beliefs is bold. Learning to be open minded and trying to cope with new ideas and concepts is daring. For every thought there is an opposing view, fear's other half is courage.

Being courageous may seem like an overwhelming thing to do, but even the simplest of actions may prove to be valiant. Doing anything outside ones comfort zone, no matter how small, is brave. Maybe you befriend the new kid at school, walk home instead of taking the bus, or smile at a stranger in the hallway; any original adventure is daring in some way. Not only can one be courageous towards others, but also towards one's self. Trying a new activity, putting yourself out there, interacting with fresh faces, these are all being brave. Taking the time to sort out your thoughts and feelings, delving deep into your judgments and views on different events, people, and topics is courageous. Really getting to know yourself is heroic, most people spend so much time worrying about others they may not realize they are slowly unraveling as well; sometimes you need to be a little selfish. Accepting others is brave, but accepting yourself is braver. Courage is exposed when trying new things, and finding yourself.

Without fear, there is no courage. Everyone is afraid at some point in their life, but overcoming that fear is when one turns brave. Ambrose Redmoon stated "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear." This quote explains courage better than any superhero action. Feeling fear is a natural experience, though some may be paralyzed by it, others keep trekking. Not being able to see where you're going, but still continuing on your journey is also an impeccable example of courage. No one knows exactly what will happen in their lifetime, most have no clue, but everyone keeps living. Car accidents kill thousands each year, yet everyone continues to drive. Sharks lurk in oceans, but we still swim. Courage is recognizing danger, yet choosing to continue onward.

Courage is a highly sought after feeling, one that can be easily obtained, if you look in the right places. To experience courage one might try something new, look inside themselves, or never look back. Modern day courage is extraordinary, though it is located in everyone. To discover courage, fear must first be acknowledged.