



*The Guyer Family – Sarah, Shannon, Kaitlin and Tim*

*Essay written by Kaitlin Guyer*

*Age: 13*

*Parents: Tim and Shannon Guyer*

*Dance Studio: Almost Famous Dance Studio*

*My name is Kaitlin Rose Guyer, I have been dancing for about five years now. My parents have been there for me through it all. My sister has a couple illnesses that aren't able to be cured, yet. Her medicine is kind of expensive, and so are my dance fees. My parents could say no to dance at any time, but they don't. For that I am forever thankful. My parents are my biggest fans and sometimes I don't give them credit for all the sacrifices they make for me. This essay is a way for me to thank and acknowledge the things they do for me. A few years ago my sister went through some serious things and my parents had to stay in Iowa, they knew I wouldn't want to miss nationals, so instead of making me stay here they sent me with my coach Amanda. I didn't realize how much of a sacrifice it was for them to let me go to Wisconsin without them, until I left nationals early. My mom had been so brave and hadn't made me come home until it was absolutely necessary. When I got there my mom was going through a lot and I had to be the strong and brave one. I didn't know how hard a toll me not being there took on her, but it was a large one. I love my mom. She is the person I tell everything to and without her I don't know if I would be dancing today, and my dad, he tries to make it to every*

dance competition I have, but sometimes it's hard and he can't. Like today he can't make it since Sarah is at speech. I understand why he can't, but when he's not there it doesn't feel the same. I feel like something really important is missing. Even if he doesn't like one of my costumes or one of my dances he tells me he loves it anyway. I haven't told him this, but he is the one person I look up to. I want to be as kind, smart, caring and honest as he is. He is my role model. He is the one who picks me up from dance most of the time, and the minute I get into the car he asks, "Did anyone ask me to come in and put on a dance display." Of course I say no because honestly he isn't the best dancer. When I have a bad day he is the one person that makes me feel better. My parents have taught me to love what I do and do it the best I can. They have been there through good and bad times, when I was scared, sad, mad and most of all through five years of dance. I know I can turn into a brat when my mom is doing my hair, I sometimes yell and snap at her. I know I shouldn't, but dance can be stressful, and my mom and dad still go through with it. I can't say this enough they mean the world to me and I love them so much. Mom and Dad thank you for being there for me and teaching me that when things get tough don't give up, keep going, and be brave and strong. Also thank you for teaching me that God is always there for me, even if things get so bad and I think that he isn't.

Also I know this is a tribute to the parents, but I want to make a small tribute to my sister, Sarah. My sister has hydrocephalus and pulmonary hypertension, two incurable diseases. She got diagnosed the summer that I went to nationals with Amanda. We fight a lot, but I know she loves me and cares about dance. She doesn't like sitting at competitions, so sometimes she doesn't go. If she doesn't go she is always texting my mom and asking if I've gone, when I'm going and how well I've been doing. That summer she had right heart failure and that's why I had to come home. I got so scared that she was going to die, I also felt bad because I was at dance instead of with her. She means so much to me and I love it when she is able to come. She gives me the confidence to go onto that stage and do what I love to do. She is stronger mentally and braver than any one I know. I want to thank her for everything she has taught me over the years. I just want to thank her for everything she has done and said to me over the years. She is also someone I want to be like and I want to be as strong as her. She is not here today but I want to thank her and wish her good luck at her speech contest.

I love you guys so much. I know I can be a jerk to all of you, but I really am thankful for you and the things you do. You mean so much to me and I wanted to do something nice for you guys, so here you go..

Kaitlin