

Kolbe Poos  
1<sup>st</sup> grade

### What My Father Means To Me

My dad is my hero. My dad is my hero because my dad is so special. I cannot lose him and he cannot lose me either. My dad is so special; he is going to be my side-kick coach to help me in soccer. My dad is so cool, he said, I can get a game for my 3DS because my grade card is so good. My dad is so special that sometimes on Fridays he takes my brother and me to Paradise Park.

Here are some things that describe my dad; happy, nice, kind, handsome, peaceful, awesome, he smiles and sometimes angry. But even if he is angry, he still loves me. My dad buys food for me, he buys me clothes and he makes breakfast, he makes lunch and he makes dinner. This is why my dad is my hero. Is your dad a hero?

Lindsey Ellefsen  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### What My Father Means To Me

When I woke up during a recent snow storm, I saw a black bunny outside. I thought it looked like a daddy bunny going out into the snow to try and find food for his family. That reminded me of my own daddy. If my family was in danger, I know my daddy would go out and try to find help for my family. That gave me a very special feeling.

Me and my daddy have always had a very special bond since the day I was born. He teaches me right from wrong and to be respectful and responsible. He loves me and I love him. That's what my daddy means to me.

Dawson Gamber  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade

### What My Father Means To Me

My dad is a good father to me because he watches soccer with me. He also came into my life when I was 6 years old. We sometimes watch movies together and I hate it when I have to leave him alone. He also means a lot to me because he has to work in the cold and hot weather. He also means so much to me because he is my soccer coach as well. Sometimes he makes up funny jokes and he was the first one to tell me how to play soccer correctly.

When I first met my dad, I was excited. The first thing when I got to meet him was to hug my dad. My dad is also special to me because he lets me go hunting with him. I didn't ever know it was fun to have a dad until he came into my life. I love my dad and I am sure he loves me.

Harlee Burrows  
4<sup>th</sup> grade

### What My Father Means To Me

My father means always having someone by my side. He makes projects fun and creative. When I feel down, he cheers me up in any way he can by making me laugh or even by making a special dinner for me to have with him. When my father sees me hurt, he immediately comes over and asks me if I'm OK. He sometimes makes up games to play if I'm bored.

My father loves to just hang out with me and relax. When we are cooking, he likes to make funny faces and read off the recipe in a silly voice which always makes me laugh. To wake me up, he turns on music and starts to sing weird. My father likes to wrestle and exercise with me so we both stay fit. When I need help with things like the computer or how to catch the softball, he will help by showing me how. I love art and when I have trouble drawing something, he will teach me how. When I'm really frustrated, he calms me down by talking soft to me and by telling me to take a deep breath. I am so glad he is my dad.

Kanwarpaul "Paul" Singh  
5<sup>th</sup> grade

Do you know who the best dad in the world is? My dad! He is like the most gnarly guy I know. Now here's why I think my dad is the best dad in the whole wide world.

When I was born, the first person I saw, beside the doctors, was my dad. The relationship between me and my dad is very strong. Here is what I saw then I opened my eyes. I discovered something awesome. I saw a tall man with glasses, great hair, and an awesome mustache and that man turned out to be my dad.

My dad has always been in my life, from the day I opened my eyes to the world. This person is a teacher, guide and a source of strength and support. He is whom I look up to with great loving, trust, and pride. With a willing hand to lend, he showed me the stars and taught me how to reach them. This person means the universe to me; he is my one and only father.

Now, let me tell you about my dad's early life in the United States. In the fall of 1991, my dad immigrated to the United States of America in hopes of a better life. Here in America, my dad faced yet another obstacle. He didn't know proper English and had no financial support. Despite this, he was able to find a job and work hard to pay for rent and food. Waiting by the window, I would watch my dad come in through the front door and I would give him a giant bear hug like it was my job. I spent every minute he was with me with him playing some sort of game. My dad encourages me to always do my best in school. He says, "Work hard in school so you can live a better life and be successful in life." From the first day of kindergarten to this day, he reminds me to "Always work hard at my studies."

In our relationship I'd like to see more love, caring, trust and more strength. I love him profoundly. The relationship between my dad and I will never die. And I mean never. My dad is a very special and important piece or member of our loving and caring family. My dad taught me many, many things that I didn't know of and from this day forward, He will teach me more. I am very lucky to have this man in my heart and in my family. Like I said earlier, he means the universe to me. I will always pray for the dad's long life and good health. He will always be in my heart.

Sophie Silvers  
6<sup>th</sup> grade

Mr. McKnight was my fifth grade teacher. He is also my role model because he really respected, helped and understood the people who were unique.

Mr. McKnight helped me realize that I can do whatever I want to do and that I can be a wonderful person, I just have to respect others feelings and opinions. I also look up to him because he was an outstanding teacher. The way he connected with us was amazing. He didn't give up on us and he worked with us until we understood what was going on. He helped us with whatever we needed. He taught us with stories that were amusing and sometimes inspirational.

Mr. McKnight is my role model because of these things and many more things that I don't know how to put into words.

**Spencer Klopfer**  
**7<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **What My Father Means To Me**

To me fatherhood means to preside, protect and provide. The only thing my dad loves more than his family is God. My dad presides as the head of our family. With that title comes the responsibility of being a teacher. My dad has taught me how to work, be responsible and have respect. These values will help me throughout life as I go to college and begin a career. I am very grateful for him and want to be like him.

As a protector, my dad gives me a sense of peace and safety. He protects me from worldly influences by teaching me right from wrong. He is also a teacher in the court and field. My dad was my soccer and basketball coach since I was a little kid. He taught me many skills in those sports but most importantly he taught me perseverance. He taught me this because my basketball team was having a poor season. We had only won one game and lost six. Dad told my team and me personally, because he knows how much I like to win, to never stop trying. My team decided to work hard and persevere. Even though we only won one more game that season, we had a great time and learned a valuable lesson.

As a provider for my family, my dad works hard and has excelled in his career. He makes sure our family's needs are met plus gives us some things we want. Although he provides well for our family, he doesn't let his work get in the way of spending valuable time with us. I hope that I will be able to have a job that will provide for my family. I love my dad so much and I'm glad to be part of his family.

Adam Crouse  
8<sup>th</sup> grade

### My Father

Some seem to think that their fathers are the best. Well, I'm here to set the record straight. The *real* number one is none other than my father, Jeff Crouse. I see the look of question in your eyes, but let me explain first. Once you see why I picked who I picked, you'll understand.

Jeff Crouse is employed at the Shawnee Parks Department. That means he must clear the snow off the roads in the winter, keep the pools running in the summer, and make sure everything works right at city events. The thing is, not all of this is done during regular work hours. So, how does he balance his job *and* time with family? My honest answer, I have no clue. He just does. He's willing to spend time with me whenever I need or want it. From helping me with baseball practice to assisting me with homework and even letting me destroy him in video games, my dad is there for me. No matter when I call, he is always ready to help. But I'm not done yet.

My father's ear is always ready to listen. Whether it be for homework, technical difficulties, or something more serious, Dad is *always* there. I know that all I have to do is ask. He always understands, and when I've done something wrong, I know that He won't freak out as long as I tell him.

So, now do you believe that my father is best? He wants nothing more than to see me happy. Whether it be helping me with school, my guitar dreams, baseball or anything else, he's there for me. He might not be perfect, but he's perfect enough for me. That's all that really matters. That's why my father is the best.

Elora Pasley  
9<sup>th</sup> grade

Can you catch more flies with honey or vinegar? My dad would ask me this anytime I was in some sort of trouble. He is a hardworking provider for my family and me. He thinks of others before himself. He is an intelligent man who wants me to be intelligent as well. Sometimes on a rainy day, we will spend time together by watching the History Channel or a movie. Spending time with my family and me makes him a good father as well, because during that time, my father shows how much he loves us.

My father has never missed one of my operations. He would hold my hand and talk about something so I would not be nervous or scared. When I come out of the surgery room, he would be the first one waiting for me. He would get me some water or Sprite to settle my stomach after the long hours of surgery time. He stays by my bedside until I was fully asleep and if I woke up, he would drive up to see me no matter what time it was. This showed me a lot. It showed me how much love a father can have for his child. It also showed me that he would do anything to make me smile. And through my intense therapy, he would push me to get it done and make me smile at the same time.

So what does a father mean to me? Well, it is that one man who will stand by your side no matter what happens. He will encourage you to follow your dreams and goals in life. He will want the best for you in life and he will help you along the way.

Tasha Zink  
10<sup>th</sup> grade

The question to this essay, “What does my father mean to me?” is a tough question to answer. I ask myself everyday, what DOES my father mean to me? I haven’t spoken to my dad in about 7 months, so answering that question seems more like a challenge to answer.

Well, as I sit here and actually think about it, my dad means everything to me. I remember when I was younger, we would do everything together. You would never find my dad without little ol’ me right behind him. When I finally lost contact with my dad, my world was crushed. I want nothing more in this world than to just talk to my dad again. I try to tell myself, “He’ll call you, just to see how your day was,” but, once I realize that call won’t come, it gives me more of a reason to find an excuse of why he has to see me.

Winning this award or even being one of the many winners would give me that chance to see what I’ve been missing. Honestly, I would go to space and back to see my dad. So when you ask, “what does your father mean to you,” I will reply, everything.

Ramontay McConnell  
11<sup>th</sup> grade

My father and I? We have our ups. We have our lows.  
Seems like a fight or two make us stronger, though.  
Very few "I love you"s, very few handshakes.  
Very little time spent together, but that's still my father, though.  
I respect him for the man he is. The man he was raised to be.  
Through the thick times and the thin times, he can still be a hero.  
Not every father chooses to be in their child's life but my dad is.  
I like to look at it as my blessing from God.  
I have a roof over my head, I eat very well,  
I don't always get what I want but I still  
appreciate the things I do get from him.  
He spends most of his time at work  
so our relationship is mostly through our phones,  
but even when he is home,  
he spends a lot of time on his own.  
I wish my dad and I had a stronger relationship.  
A talk or two would be great.  
A little bit more time together or even a lot is all I ask for.  
I see other kids with their dads  
that leaves me jealous  
because that was my dad once before.  
Always in my face, always asking me to chill with him,  
always wanting to go out for a walk and go work out at the gym.  
I now see how it feels. Deep down inside, it hurts.  
I think a talk would be just great  
but I don't know when the right time is.  
All I can say is that my dad does mean a lot to me,  
whether he believes it or not, he is.

Tyler Cordry  
12<sup>th</sup> grade

## **What My Father Means to Me**

My dad is straight up scary. He is six foot five inches and around 250 pounds. His mouth is usually scowling (not because he's angry) under his thick goatee, and he wears boots with cargo pants and a fleece zip-up. When he sneezes he roars and when he walks he lumbers, but beneath that scary exterior is a gentle, intelligent, kind and understanding dad (who still has his terrifying moments every once and awhile).

When I was young my dad was a giant to me but since I've grown to look him eye-to-eye, I see him not as a giant but as, well, a smaller giant.

He is my greatest supporter. When I decided I wanted to join the military, his response was "Let's do it." When I told him I wanted to go to the Military Academy, he told me he was sure I could get in. When I expressed fear of doing ROTC and juggling engineering at a top college, he told me he had the utmost faith in me and little fear I would fail.

My dad is more than a caretaker, provider, friend, husband, and adviser. He's my ego. He gave me confidence in myself I never dreamed of having on my own. He didn't just give me a tool to succeed, he *told* me I could and would succeed. He led by example and gave me faith in myself by showing faith in me.

Today I am the same height as my dad. While his genes are the reason for my literal height, he was the one who made me the figurative giant I am today.