

Emilia Jenkins, 1st Grade

What my father means to me is that I will always be loved and he makes sure I am growing up right.

He protects me and makes sure I have everything I need. When I am scared at night he makes sure I have my stuffed animals. When I am hurt he gives me a Band-Aid and a hug.

When he helps coach soccer it makes me feel happy. He makes sure I have fun at soccer practice.

My daddy takes my family to church to learn about God. Sometimes my daddy takes me on dates. One time we went to the pool. He also took me to the music symphony and the Chinese restaurant that is supper yummy.

My daddy is the best because he reads me books before bed. Our favorite books are I spy books and we race to see who can find things the fastest. We also love riddle and joke books. They make us laugh.

When he is Watch D.O.G.S. at my school it makes me happy because he helps in my class room and he eats lunch with me. My daddy is the best daddy in the world because he loves me a lot.

Mykah Hammond, 2nd Grade

What My Father Means to Me

My father means a lot to me. He tucks me in at night. When he tucks me in, sometimes he takes one of my stuffed animals and I have to take it out of his hands.

For breakfast, he takes me to a breakfast place called VFW. We always get bacon there because it's really good. He also takes me to my bus stop with my dog.

For lunch, sometimes he makes me Ramon Noodles. He puts eggs in it just for me.

My dad takes me fishing in the spring and summer. We always go to a different pond. We catch lots and lots of fish every year.

My dad has a nick name for me. He calls me Roo Roo. He has tea parties with me when I'm bored. Sometimes he lets me have them after breakfast.

My father watches football. He cheers for Dallas Cowboys, Oregon and the Chiefs. My dad tickles me a lot. If he's watching TV, he does it on TV commercials.

He stays with me when I'm sick. My dad always gets the stuff I need. He makes me laugh. He makes me laugh by telling me jokes.

My dad's favorite color is blue so when I make him something, I use blue, but not for everything.

When I'm home, my dad watches movies with me. We watch movies on Netflix. My dad gives me lots of hugs. He is the best dad ever!

Katie Coats, 3rd Grade

What My Father Means to Me

My father means happiness to me.

My dad never gives up. He works really hard as a policeman and provides us a warm house. He cooks dinner when my mom is at work. My dad helps me do my homework and read. In his job he helps people but helps us too. My dad helps take care of me when I am sick. My dad helps me do crafts for school. He also helps at school as a Watch D.O.G. When it snows, he helps clear the driveway. My dad plays with us. My dad fixes things that are broken and doesn't complain. My dad plays ball tag with us.

When I was younger, my dad taught me how to ride a bike. One of my favorite things to do is ride a bike. My dad told me that if you fall off of your bike, get back on. This lesson is important for life, too. My dad never gives up and always does his best. I try to be like my dad and do this, too.

Elizabeth Walden, 4th Grade

My Grandpa, Jim Walden was in the Army. I call him Papa!

He LOVES chocolate! And, I love him.

He also always says, "Practice! Practice! Practice!," although, I don't know why.

He takes me on cruises, trips to go see my cousins in Arkansas and trips to the Omaha Zoo! One time, since my dad was with my brother, he took me on a Father Daughter Dance and taught me the Twist!

It doesn't matter how many words I have or how many places he takes me, it matters inside the heart!

Khushi Parsai, 5th Grade

Dad

Some people disrespect their dad and don't think of them as anything, but truth is, no household can run properly without a dad! Now that I sit here writing this essay I'm really thinking, "Wow, my dad affects my life so much without me even knowing it!" Every time a shadow comes on our family, my dad fights it off like a Superhero fights off super villains.

I remember when last year my dad got laid off. He worked day and night to find another job and would not eat more than a few bites for dinner so he could get back to work! I, too, used to disrespect my dad as well, until my best friend, Addie, lost her dad. She would cry every time she would see me and tell me about how incomplete she felt. From that day on I developed strong respect for my dad and his passion for our family.

My dad cares more about me than himself. Even though he has enough money for a huge house and a nice Cadillac, he doesn't spend it on luxuries; instead, he saves as much money as he can so I can have a good youth, so I can go to a good college and fulfill all my wishes.

But that's not all my dad does. He helps me with my daily life, too. Every day my dad wakes me up and drops me at my bus stop and stays there until I get on. When (I) get back from school, I do my homework until dad comes home. When he does, he makes himself coffee and me milk then he sits with me and looks at my homework. Then, he talks to me about school, after he gives me enrichment homework to enhance my learning. Then, he takes me to swim club, which is a competitive swimming program for kids, then, to basketball. Finally, when I get home, mom gives me dinner and my dad talks about our day. Then, I go upstairs and read a book. At around 10:00 p.m., my dad comes, says his prayers with me, then, tucks me in and kisses me goodnight.

My dad is my main influence and loves me very much. My life is not complete without him. Dad is beyond words. Dad is just amazing.

Sophia LaPoint, 6th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

There are lots of great dads in the world, but I think I have the best.

My dad is very fun, we get to travel with him a lot and he is really good at photography.

My dad is very fun in lots of different ways. He always has special surprises for us. Once, when we were in Arizona, he surprised us all with tickets to the Phoenix Suns suite for the Diamondbacks game. Besides surprises, he also makes it fun for us to learn how to do new things. He seems to always be building something or working on a project and he teaches us how to help him.

My dad has to travel for work, so, we make the most of our time at home together. Sometimes he takes us on trips with him so we can learn about the world. One of my favorite trips was to Mexico where we got to go to the beaches and practice our Spanish.

One of our favorite activities to do on trips is to take lots of pictures. My dad is great at taking pictures. Photography is one of the main hobbies that we do together. He is always teaching me new tips and ideas about photography. We love to go to cool places, take great pictures, and share them with friends and family.

Being a good dad isn't all about fun and games but being tough when teaching about discipline and manners; having rules but being fair. A good dad is strict when needed but is also fun. That is exactly how my dad is. He is the best dad I could ever ask for.

Hailey Hardin, 7th Grade

Daddy's Girl

What is a father? A father is the man who shows his daughter how to be independent, courageous, and fearless and he makes her feel beautiful. His job is to give her a sense of adventure and make her still feel secure and confident. My father is the reason I am who I am. He is the reason I try new things and never give up. He has always believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. He helped me with school, sports and he helped me become me.

I have always been a sporty girl, thanks to my dad. He coached me and pushed me. I didn't always appreciate his tips and corrections, but he gave them to me anyway. Sometimes, he told me what I needed to hear but didn't exactly want to hear it. I needed it though, and it led me to become a better soccer player. This example not only applies to soccer and sports, it applies to life in general.

My father is supporting and allows me to try new things and lets me be myself. He is the guy who wants to catch me before I fall, but instead, he picks me up, brushes me off and lets me try again. He knows that one day I will grow up and he won't be able to be by my side to guide me to make the right decisions. So, that's why when I make mistakes he wants to help me and keep me from making more, but instead he lets me find my own way. I will love and trust him forever because he was the first man in my life and my first hero. That is why I'm a daddy's girl.

Gigi Harris, 8th Grade

Seurat is an artist who uses many dots to form a picture. From far away, his art looks like normal pictures but when you look carefully you see many exquisite dots to form the beautiful pieces of art. From afar, my dad looks like any other dad, but it is his many dots that make him such an incredible father.

The dots are all the little moments of how we spend our days together. Like how we sing together while I play ukulele and he plays guitar or like how we have formed a Lego empire together. In summertime, we not only water ski together, but as he skies I stand on his shoulders and hub hoop—a move we created together. He even takes off work early to make it to ski practices.

On cold winter days, we stay in and do puzzles, watch a movie or practice acrodoubles together. And even though we are having fun when we play, I learn ethics and morals. We have great talks about politics and the world and how we could solve problems while we play. That creates a whole other layer of dots. I don't know what other dads are like but I know I wouldn't trade mine for anything in the world.

Thanks for having so many dots, dad.

Braxton Huff, 9th Grade

What My Dad Means to Me

My dad seems to be only an average father but under the mask of average, my dad is . . . always there for me.

He is the number 35, the owner of a silver 1998 Honda CRV that's in great shape, intelligent, loving, an e-bay seller with 100% positive feedback, a spiritual leader, my algebra tutor, the one that I can talk to no matter what, a friend, a husband, a provider, a dad that will do the laundry and then stop and play a game with his children, a KU fan, the one that will help me reach my goals, a part of a whole, the man who will attend an Imagine Dragons concert that was a birthday gift for his son and his friend, then, go home and download some of the songs that he now likes, the man that will pay money and take time to make a good vacation a great one, the man with the cat that bites him in the most awkward way to show love, the man that won't show up late to an academic event, the man that knows when he is needed, the man that loves it when his children try new things, and the man that helps me with my photography opportunities.

He's not average, but awesome, even though my loving father does have flaws. If I could list all of these adjectives, I would never leave the chair in front of the dual monitor computer my dad set up. I would still be sitting here changing the tracks on the iTunes Radio and listing all the wonderful attributes of my dad, most likely, until I died.

If I could answer the question, what my dad means to me with one word, it would simply be . . . *mine*.

Jacy Deaver, 10th Grade

My father is an awesome person. When I need him, he is there for me.

My father adopted me when I was a little baby; me and my sister. We are a different race than he is. We are African Americans.

My father is hard working and he will do anything for me. My dad is a role model and my hero. My father taught me to do what's right and to follow my dreams. He taught me to be strong.

My father is always honest even when the truth might make me mad. My father is the best dad ever.

My dad interacts with me. We play tennis and swim together. He is in shape. My dad is funny and smart and he has manners. My dad is a gentleman and kind. My dad makes me smile. He also inspires me to try new things. My dad is faithful and a Christian. He loves kids and animals.

Devin Hudson, 11th Grade

My father means the world to me because without him I would not be on this earth. He is the man from which I am proudly named after.

He means everything to me because he did not have to be there for me. His biological father wasn't there to raise him, so he could have easily followed the stereotype of black fathers abandoning their children. Instead, he decided to be a real man and edify his children so that we could be ready for the world.

He has always been there to comfort us in times of need and to disciple us when we've misbehaved because it teaches us a lesson. If he didn't I'd probably be an insolent, impertinent kid like many in my generation are.

My father has always been an assiduous man who would do anything to make sure we have what we need. I love my father because despite some hardships, he has remained by my side and he'd do anything in the world for me.

Since he'd do anything for me, he means everything to me.

Rhajae Battles, 12th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

He is the man who always fixed my bike, adjusting the seat as I grew taller and removing the training wheels when I was brave enough. He is the man that dutifully checked my closet every night for the boogey man, soothingly patting my back when the coast was clear. He is the man that listened to me screech "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" on the violin every day for twenty minutes when no one else would.

This man has stood by me through all the weird phases, yet never felt the need to judge. Above all else, this man is my inspiration and my support, he is my father. He has shown me more love and care than could ever be asked for from anyone in the world. He has shown me the good things life has to offer and how to find these qualities in other people. Sure, life can get hard, we get discouraged and sometimes things do not work out the way we want, but he has taught me to be resilient and how to endure.

Every day I watch him work hard to provide for me. Rising for work before anyone would even reach the deepest part of a dream and returning home the last of us all. He breaks his back day in and day out to give me and my family the best. This is the man I want to walk me down the aisle. This is the man I want to watch me graduate from college. The man I want to be successful for.

My father means the world to me and as Daddy's little girl, I want him to know that he is more than appreciated, he is cherished.