

Lexi DeGree, 1st Grade

My daddy means everything to me.

He jumps on the trampoline with me. He goes roller skating with my school and holds my hand and all my friends' hands all at the same time.

My daddy lets me paint his toenails different colors and doesn't get mad when I don't paint them well.

He drives the SWAT truck to my school so all the kids can look inside it.

He also makes the best omelets ever!

Best of all, my daddy hugs and giggles with me when he puts me to bed at night.

I wish my daddy didn't have to work so he could stay home with me.

Jack Sieben, 2nd Grade

My dad is in the military just like his dad was. He was deployed for six months. I missed him so much. I'm glad he's home now. He is very funny and always there for me when I need him.

My dad is very good at hockey. He knows how to fix things and put together Legos.

I admire him for his bravery and he is religious. He is good to our family and that makes him a good father. I'm so happy he's my dad.

Elena Miller Ross, 3rd Grade

My grandpa is courageous, loyal and gentle. He is also kind because one time he went shopping with me and bought me lots of things. He also gave me lots of rides on his bobcat. Some Godly qualities he has are content, humble, diligent, honest, faithful and loving.

Things we have in common are going ice fishing, building a fort and planting a garden. Some fun things we do together are going out to eat, playing sticky ball and laughing.

What I want to do in the future is for my grandpa to walk me down my wedding aisle.

I have a memory I'd like to share and it's also very funny. One day, me and my sister were getting really bored. So, we went to Grandma and Grandpa's house. When we got there, I ran to Grandpa and I squeezed him tight! But, I couldn't really get my arms around him because he's so strong, his muscle's stick out. It's crazy! So anyways, a couple of hours later, my grandpa fell asleep. This is the funniest part, WE PAINTED HIS TOENAILS PINK!

My grandpa is so amazing; I can't even put it into words. I am just really thankful for him. He's the reason I have food, a house and the reason I have faith in Christ. And, I just wanted to say, my Grandpa's the Best, HANDS DOWN!

GRANDPA'S AND DAD'S ARE AWESOME!

Janelle Sylvester, 4th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

My dad means the world to me, but one of the reasons he stands out the most is that he loves me and I love him.

One of the things he does for me is he emboldens me to do many things. The first thing I can think of that he encouraged me to do was to ride the roller coaster. My dad promised me riding one would be fun, and he was right. Another thing he encouraged me to do was water ski. He told me at first I would wipe out, and I did. Now I can water ski easily because of my dad. My dad also educated me about how to ride a bike, and he presented sports to me.

My dad and I have a lot of moments we look back and laugh at. One of them is when he told me and my sister we were going to Disney World. Another one is when our family was in Florida and I accidentally dropped my flip flop by the swamp we were looking at. My dad got the shoe without an alligator coming close to him. We still joke about reptiles strutting around wearing flip flops.

My father taught me things, but one thing that stands out the most is this; to not give up on each other. When he believed I could do something, he would inspire me to do it and would keep bringing the subject up. Those are some of the reasons I know that my dad is the best in the world. Why wouldn't I think that?

Alex W. Nunez, 5th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

My father means family to me. Before my mom met my dad, I felt like I didn't have many people I could trust because it was just me and my mom for the most part. My dad has made me feel more secure and like I have a normal family now. It feels great to have a family for once and I have a dad who is awesome. My dad means the world to me.

He takes me outside and plays catch with me and teaches me football. When we are outside, it doesn't matter how many mosquitoes are out, it's just me and him and I feel like the world revolves around us. Those days make me feel like I have peace of mind.

Sometimes we have family fun days when he and my mom take me to the playground.

Every New Year's Eve we play board games until midnight and drink apple cider. I don't always win at the games but that doesn't matter, I just like spending time with my family.

My father is very generous and will do anything for me. He made me an XBOX 360 that looks like it has infinite lights. He put a light screen in my Gameboy so I could play it in darkness and fixed the speakers.

He takes time off of work to go to my awards ceremonies at school and to see my chorus performances in 4th grade. When I'm sick, he buys me a present to make me feel better. The fact that he's thinking about me at that exact moment and got me something is what matters to me.

That amount of love, generosity, caring and respect are what I feel makes a true father.

That's just a few things about my beloved dad, Matt Norris!

Jolie Reinhardt, 6th Grade

My father is the perfect example of what every kid would want.

My father is always teaching me things and keeping my imagination alive. One of my favorite examples of this is when we go jeeping. He keeps me wondering and looking for unique things. My father and I look for faces; shapes and animals in the big rocks along the trails. When we find something good, we take pictures of them to put in our photo album. It is our Rock Faces Album. We even found faces and other shapes in the trees.

My favorite picture in the album has to be the one we took in a burn area. There was a burned tree that looked like a hand coming out of the ground. So my father put on his black gloves out of the jeep. Then, he held his arm up to look just like the tree and we took a picture. It looked so awesome. My father and I have many laughs on every outing we go on. He is always giving me things to look for.

As you can see, my father spends a great deal of time with me. He keeps my imagination and my tickle bone very active which is very important thing to have. I love my father for all he does to give me the best childhood memories ever. But most importantly, he gives his time.

Lexie Ignaszewski, 7th Grade

What does my dad mean to me? My dad means the world to me.

I have learned life lessons from him that I couldn't learn any place else. When we have been on vacation, he has pushed me to try new things; things that I was scared to do but after I tried it, I like it. He has taught me how to swim. He has taught me how to drive a tractor and work in the field. He has taught me how to do different things on a go-kart.

He is helping me pursue my dreams of becoming a vet. We have pigs, sheep and rabbits and any time we have to give them a shot or medicine he always tells me to do it but he is always there to help me.

I couldn't imagine my life without my dad. We have a relationship that no one could break. He makes me feel special every time he calls me "peanut" which is his nickname for me. We spend so much time together.

He has pushed me to do better in school. If I have any questions on my homework, I can always count on him to be there and help me. He has also pushed me to become a better basketball player, volleyball player and go-kart racer and better showman. He tries to make all of mine and my brother's games.

When we get home from practice, almost every night, he has supper made for us.

He is always there helping my brother and I get our animals ready for the show. Honestly, there is nothing I would change about my dad. He is perfect. I could not imagine my life without him. I love him to the moon and back.

Sydney Lundebrek, 8th Grade

What does my dad mean to me? My dad is someone who always has my back. He is someone who is always looking out for me. He is someone who tries to be there whenever he can. He is someone who, if the whole world turned against me, I know he would be there.

My dad is my teacher. He teaches me how to find the beauty that's in every day. My father shows me that a day without learning something new is a day wasted.

My dad is someone who I can joke around with. He showed me that you can't be serious all the time. He showed me that sometimes a laugh is the best cure.

My dad is someone who always supports me and what I want to do in life. When I told my dad what I wanted to be in life he supported me 100%. He told me I could do it even if other people didn't think I could. When everyone else doubts me, he still believes I can do it.

If I could change one thing about our father daughter relationship it would be that I could spend more time with him. My dad is usually busy and not typically there to attend something or just to watch me in the sport I play. Even though my dad isn't always there, it still makes me smile anytime I see him at one of my tennis matches or just trying to make an effort to be there.

Abby Walker, 9th Grade

When I see my dad, the first thing I see is his kindness. It must not seem plausible to visibly see physical kindness. I see the smile lines around his eyes; the brightness in them as he sees me. I see his rough, calloused hands; tough because of each time he's helped fix something. I see how he adjusts his glasses; the small mark on the bridge of his nose that is evidence of a long day spent working hard at work. When I look at my dad, I see his strong arms and I know that he would use them to protect me. I see the freshly pressed shirts and good slacks he wears every Sunday to church; how if we are at God's house, we should dress up. Everything is a special occasion that must be met with enthusiasm.

When I am with my dad, the first thing I hear is his happiness. Happiness is proved, no doubt, by the laughter. My dad's laugh is one of the happiest sounds I know; it reminds me of all the times when I was little and had worked to produce that sound. When I am with my dad, I hear classical music; a genre that I know he loves and that I've reasons to believe is my fault.

Something you wouldn't know about my dad by simply looking or listening is how hard he works. You would see his hand mussing his hair and hear his voice in a slightly more tired tone. He works hard in a well-paying job he doesn't love to provide basic needs and more for our family because he loves us. That much is evident. I don't have to look or listen to know how much he loves us. Not just by the clearing of his throat and droopy eyes late at night as he helps me with homework. I know he loves me because he encourages me. I cannot put what my dad means to me in words, but I can try my best because that is what he always encourages me to do.

Grace Waskow, 10th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

My father means an understanding place where I can openly say how I feel. My father never ridicules me about questions I have or topics I want to talk about. He never tells me my opinions are bad.

My father means a place of knowledge and learning. I learned how to drive from him. He taught me how to cut wood and make it even. He taught me that when you start something you finish it. He taught me how to fish and canoe. He taught me to walk away from a fight. My father means to me a best friend who always has my back.

We get along really well. We both like the same kinds of food, exercise, movies and fun. We both are social and make that sometimes only we find funny.

My father means a place where I can say all my problems with friends and school out loud. We go on walks and talk about life and what's bothering us. We are each other's therapists. As a 16 year old girl, this is basically all my life is right now; school, friends, work and family. My father to me is a huge part of my world.

Isabella Foster, 11th Grade

What My Father Means to Me

I am my father; clumsy and too organized. I hope I can gain his other amazing qualities; a model for overcoming your fears, being positive about anything and everything and staying connected to your family, no matter where you are.

My dad travels the world for business. Every time I hug him goodbye, he seems normal; calm, collected, ready to do to work, no matter the country or continent. Never in a million years would I think he might be scared to travel somewhere! Finding out he does get nervous or frustrated reminds me he's human. Knowing this gives me courage that when I'm scared, it is not a reason to quit.

My dad always smiles. It's just the kind of guy he is. You see his effect on other people and how the mood of a room can change. A smile and hug from my dad can change my whole outlook, reminding me that bad moods aren't worth it.

Having a dad on the other side of the world is sometimes really hard. He makes sure it doesn't seem that bad. Whenever possible, we are emailing and updating each other on what's going on so it makes it a little easier to forget he's away. My grandpa, a baseball fanatic, lived with us for 8 years. Even when he was 92, my dad would call or email us with channels and times the best baseball games for Grandpa were. My dad shows me not only how to be a parent, but to never stop being a caring son or daughter, even when it is hard.

My dad is my hero. He means everything to me because he's shown me that life is for living, you should take care of the people you love and always try to overcome your fears.

Kashawn Brown, 12th Grade

What my father means to me . . . honestly, as cliché as it sounds, I have the greatest dad in the world.

My dad is the type to build you a whole treehouse with everything imaginable inside just because you said tree houses are cool. My dad has got the biggest heart in the world.

Due to the fact that he lives in Georgia, he can't attend my wrestling matches, but he never forgets to call before my match and after.

He's also the smartest man I know; he's fluent in every conversation imaginable. My pops can go from talking about how good Kevin Durant played in his last game to who the Republican candidate for President should be in 2016 and wouldn't state anything that wasn't pure fact.

My dad is also a magnificent chess player; we schedule a game every week. One of the most important things my dad has ever told me is "life is like a game of chess, you have to be able to think three to four moves ahead on everything you do, you control how you react to everything that happens to you and always keep your eyes on the prize."

I model a lot of things I do after my dad; he's really just an every man's man. He's so smooth and dapper. I wouldn't be half the man I am today without my dad's knowledge and guidance.

I love that man so much.