

## Tyson Wesner, First Grade

My father means everything to me. My dad is a policeman, so he protects us from bad guys so they don't break into our house and steal our money and toys.

My dad is the best because he swims with us and he plays baseball with us. My dad even coaches our baseball and basketball team. My dad is so cool that he even takes me deer hunting with him. And for Christmas, he bought me a BB gun. And, he taught me how to shoot it and all of the safety rules. My dad also plays cops and robbers with my brother and I and he lets us arrest him.

And because my dad is a policeman, he is always telling us what's right and what's wrong.

Because my dad is a policeman, he works strange hours and a lot of holidays. I would like to be able to see more of my dad but because he has to protect people at all times, that's not possible right now.

That's what my dad means to me.

## Elsa Hough, Second Grade

When I think about my dad, I feel safe. I know he will always take care of me and protect me from danger.

My dad gets me up from lazy days and turns them into adventure days. I always have fun on those adventures. For example, my dad and I hiked all the way to the base of the Mississippi River. We found lots of shells—I found a clam. It was very exciting. He helped me when we got to a part of the trail with a big tree trunk in the path. He helped me climb over it.

My dad and I like to go camping in our VW Vanagon. One time, it was just the two of us and we roasted corn over the fire. I got to sleep in the pop-top and he got the fold-out bed. We were almost to my grandma's house in North Dakota when the Vanagon broke down. We got to ride in a tow-truck to the nearest gas station so it could be fixed. That gas station had Orange Fanta and potato chips which we had for a snack while we read books and waited for it to be fixed. That was quite an adventure.

My dad and I like to eat bananas with peanut butter and raisins to top.

My dad is funny, exciting, hard-core and adventurous. He's always doing things the hard way—he says the hard way is the best way and I agree.

## Nolan Kampsen, Third Grade

My dad is my hero. He is my hero for many reasons.

My dad is always there for me. Whenever I worry about things, we talk about them while we shoot hoops or play catch. When my feelings get hurt, he is there to comfort me and encourage me to work things out. He tells me my feelings are OK and he helps me to resolve my conflicts and learn from those feelings. Usually I feel much, much better after our talks.

My dad is my hero because he encourages me to try my best. Even when I want to quit and give up, he tells me to keep trying and work harder. He always expects me to try my best and do my best.

I hope I grow up to be like my dad. He works hard at work and also works hard to take care of his family. He is an honest person and a hard worker.

My dad likes to teach me new things. He likes to help me work on my sports skills, like catching grounders in baseball and shooting free throw shots in basketball, or how to run plays in football. He also helps me with my math homework. He likes to race me with my math flashcards. He's really good at math and I think I am almost as good as him!

## Myles Rasmussen, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

My dad is an amazing guy. He helps me with a lot of things. Me and my dad both like a lot of the same things. My dad is the most important thing in the world to me. I can't imagine a world without him.

We both love to do stuff together. I don't care where we are going, but when I'm with him, it is a BLAST! My dad is always, always kind to everyone and he always wants the best for my family and me. He loves to help people and is never ever mean. My dad likes to help people so much that he became a police officer to keep others safe and happy.

My dad and I like to go on small trips together. We have the best time ever. He's honest to everyone.

He tucks me in every night and never forgets. In my dad's spare time, we like to go outside and play lightning or throw a football around and that may not be huge, but it is super fun because I'm with him.

He picks me up from school sometimes and I like it when he does. We will talk about our day and talk about what we might do for the rest of the day. Wherever life takes us, since I have my dad, I know it will be fun. My dad deserves to win Father of the Year because he is the nicest person I know. And even if he doesn't win Father of the Year, he always wins in my book.

## Zoya Darouie, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

What is my dad to me? Well, that's a good question! My dad to me is like food and water; I couldn't live without it!

My dad does many things for my family like cook dinner, fix stuff when it's broken and helps me and my sister with homework. I appreciate this stuff a lot. But the thing I like the most is when he finds time for just me and him! We will go out to lunch, go shopping and get ice cream! We call it a dad and daughter date!

I love my dad a bunch and I wouldn't trade him for anything, not even a million bucks! He means the world to me! When I look at him, I see someone who I can trust and look up to!

He is a therapist because he can fix my problems! He is an eraser because he can always give me a clean slate when I've made a mistake. He does not judge me or anyone! He is the kind of dad that thinks you look beautiful even when you are having a very bad hair day or your clothes don't match!

**D** is for the day we spent together!

**A** is for how AWESOME you are!

**D** is for how dashing you are!

He is my hero, my role model, my friend and best of all, he is my dad and the best dad I could wish for! He is the number 1 dad in my world! And that's what my dad means to me!

## Trinity Shoemaker, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*To me a father is love. My dad shows me love in everything that he does. Every day no matter if it is homework, soccer practice, or just watching a movie, my dad does it with all the love in the world.*

*To me a father is patience. Raising kids is not easy. We are high maintenance and need lots of attention. We can be whiny and spoiled. My dad always finds a way to be patient and teach us. He talks to us in a way we can understand and learn.*

*To me a father is supportive. This is a big one for me. I am different. I am my own person. I make good choices and I make bad ones. No matter why, I know my dad will support me. He will listen to what I have to say and support me.*

*To me a father is encouragement. My dad wants me to be the best that I can be. He tells me to do life big and make a difference. Stand up for those that are weaker and not capable of standing up for themselves. "Leave a legacy" is a motto in our house.*

*To me my father is my hero. He shows me love every day. He has patience with every word. He supports me in everything I do. He is my biggest soccer fan. He encourages me with every hug and smile. I love you, dad!*

# Logan Shuman, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## What My Father Means to Me

He's kind, funny, caring, forgiving when I do dumb stuff. I could list A LOT more but it would take up a whole page. My dad, Chris Shuman is so good with us kids and takes time off work to practice baseball or whatever with us. My mom has Arthritis, so she can't really do fun stuff like practicing sports, so my dad takes over and can make anything happen. My dad has a lot of great things about him, like how he is loyal, funny and how caring he is. My father is the best father you will ever have.

My dad is the most loyal person ever! You can trust him with anything like secrets and tasks. He will never let you down. When there is a problem, he is there to help and you know you can trust him just by the way he looks. It's like its impossible for him to let you down, because well, he is like a superhero.

My dad can be so funny. He will just say something ridiculous out of nowhere and make everyone laugh. He has such a great sense of humor and can cheer anyone up just in a blink of an eye. Sometimes, when I'm mad, he will act like I am his little baby and talk in a high pitched voice and I just can't stop laughing.

One of the greatest things about my dad is how caring he is. My dad goes to North Dakota a lot for work. He stays there for a week then comes back for a week and then goes again. The caring part is he skypes us for about an hour each night checking on us. My father is the best thing you could ask for.

## Savannah Elwood, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fathers are amazing. They're not always treating you like your five, like moms do. They don't pull pranks on you, like brothers do. They also don't act like they are better than you, like sisters do. Not everyone's dad is the same, but I'm sure that they all have one thing in common and that is that they are pretty awesome to have around.

My father is kind. He believes in old fashioned ways of always saying please and thank you for everything, holding doors open for people if you get there first and not swearing.

He enjoys building stuff. He built our house with my grandpa and he also built my sister's and my bed. He's good at what he does.

My dad is funny. He finds the stupidest things funny. Sometimes, he does this thing where he laughs, then he raises his eyebrows and looks around at us to see if we found whatever he's laughing at as funny as he did or if we even laughed at all.

My dad adopted me from Africa when I was six years old. My mom knew that she was going to adopt when she was just nine years old. She saw something on TV about adoption and said she was going to do that when she grew up. When she married my dad and had my brothers and sisters, my dad agreed that they should adopt, too. They didn't care from where but they knew it was going to be a girl. Originally, it would have been my little sister who got adopted, but she was so helpless without me, so I got to come with her.

He's a much laid back kind of guy. He doesn't get worked up over almost anything. He doesn't like yelling, so when he does, it's usually pretty serious. He's also a quiet guy. He's more of an observer. He would rather listen to people talk than talk himself.

I love him. He's been there every time I needed him to be. My father is important to me. I don't know what I would do without him.

## Garrett Johnson, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

What does my father mean to me? When it comes to being a dad, not a great deal. Don't get me wrong. I love my dad and care about him, but I have lost most of the respect I had for him due to his past decisions. When I was younger, I realized that for a male role model I should turn more to my grandpa, or Papa, as I call him.

Papa is the most honorable man I have ever met. True to his family and faith, he is always a pleasure to be around. To me, Papa means everything.

Ever since I was a small child, Papa has been there as a source of strength and guidance. He is the person that is the "wind in my sails," or in other words, he is very uplifting and challenges me to strive in life. Even brief conversations with him can brighten my entire day and help me to better myself. My grandpa has more than just maturity and positivity, he has the strongest faith of anybody I have ever met.

Papa was diagnosed with Polio at age two, but is still close to God regardless of his trials. His Polio left him with a bad leg, so growing up he could never play sports. When I am reminded of this and see that it never beat him, I am inspired to never give up in life. Papa has taught me lessons that I will always carry with me. He showed me how to be strong in times of great trial, how to rejoice in times of great happiness, and how to trust myself and God in every aspect of life. I will forever cherish the moments I have had with my beloved Papa.

## Abigail McCullough, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

*One of the most important people in my life is my father. He shares a very deep fun-filled relationship with me that is an important blessing in my life. He is a very intelligent, good-hearted man who is outstanding for a variety of reasons.*

*I admire my dad because he is extremely good at staying strong and brave. Even though he has a stressful job, he manages to make time to talk to my family about big decisions in our life. He has a serious side, but he's also got a fun side. When I need to talk to someone if I'm having a bad day, I go to him. When I want to have some fun, I also go to him.*

*The personal relationship I share with my dad is priceless. My dad is always there for me and helps me be the best at what I do. He dedicates his time to help me improve in my school work and sports. He has regular conversations with me about everything that's going on in my life and makes corny jokes that bring a smile to my face. I couldn't ask for a better father and role model than him.*

*Whenever I'm with him, I'm never bored. He always suggests things to do and knows how to have fun. And, whatever I want to do, he'll do it with me. He's like my best friend. A best friend, I know, will never leave my side and the man in my life, I know, will never hurt me. Whenever I'm with my dad, time is never wasted because time is precious, like my dad.*

# Bailey O'Hare, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

## What My Father Means to Me

To me, a father is someone who is a protector, a mentor, a listener, and someone who loves with all their heart.

My dad possesses all of those qualities and is the most caring man in my life. I am the only daughter, causing us to have a special bond. Since I am very different from my two brothers, he is constantly learning and adapting to raising a girl. I always have been, and no matter how old I get, I will still be his little girl. We do not have all the same interests, but he is always open-minded and embraces each of my unique qualities.

He works long hours, but still makes a point to attend my events even after a demanding day at work. As much as I hate to admit it sometimes, my dad is actually quite funny and makes me smile every day at all the quirky things he does. My father pushes me to set goals and reach my highest potential, but is always there to fall back on when things don't go as planned.

He provides others with the best advice he can give, but also leads by example. Above all, my father is a leader. I have always looked up to him and admired his qualities. He often reminds me to just relax and enjoy life in the present.

I know he doesn't always know how to show it or put it into words, but it is obvious to me every day how much love and compassion his heart holds. I hope I can make as much of a difference in someone's life as my father has made in mine because I don't know where I would be or what I would possibly do without him.

## Marlee Moore, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Many people have fathers that are serious or boring, but I do not have one of “those” fathers. My dad is always in a good mood. He can make me laugh no matter what. Whether I had a bad day or I am mad, he can still make me laugh and smile.

I appreciate that quality in him because he has taught me to have a good attitude no matter what. He has taught me that no matter how empty the glass is, there is always something in it. Whether it is a few drops of water or some air, there is always something to be glad about and to be thankful for. God has blessed me in so many ways.

My dad has also taught me that I can't always control the situation, but I can control my attitude. If I choose the right way and have a good attitude, it may just change the situation. My dad has taught me that a smile goes a lot further than a harsh word. I am so glad to have the father I have. The lessons he has taught me are invaluable, and he means the world to me.