



Smyrna School District

Essay Contest

2019

Student Winners

A decorative border of pencils surrounds the text. At the top, three pencils are arranged horizontally. On the left and right sides, pencils are arranged vertically. At the bottom, three pencils are arranged horizontally. In the bottom right corner, there is a pencil holder containing several pencils.

I ♥ the Smyrna School District

During the month of January 2019 we held the 18th essay contest to support the five Smyrna School District core values of *Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion*. During “I Love the Smyrna School District” day on February 23, 2019, first, second and third place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments.

The 2018 writing contest focused on the value of *Responsibility*, and our local authors wrote some of the most sincere essays. This booklet contains the essays of first, second and third place winners at all levels.

We are pleased to present this booklet as a testament to our community’s dedication to our core values.

On behalf of our district, thank you to all who shared their personal stories and helped to celebrate the importance of responsibility in our lives.

Patrik Williams
Superintendent

For the annual “I Love the Smyrna School District” essay contest, students were asked to write about *Responsibility*, a core district value. Contest rules and writing prompts were disseminated to students (via their teachers) in December 2018. Ryan Buchanan, Supervisor of Instruction, prepared the prompt and assisted with coordinating the essay contest. Jamie Cox, Smyrna School District Curriculum Office secretary, completed the typing and formatting of the publication and assisted with the layout and editing of the publication. June Wicks conducted the contest and edited the final publication. District teachers encouraged their students to write and helped select essays. Appreciation is extended to all for their time and effort in making this publication possible.

Essay Contest

Contestants are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic:

Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. This includes being responsible for your actions as a family member, teacher, student and citizen. You can demonstrate your responsibility through service to others and self-control.

Your school is having a writing contest. Use the writing prompt and questions below to help you craft a writing piece for the contest.

People often help each other. **Tell a true story** about a time when one person helped another, or when a group of people worked together to provide someone help.

STUDENT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners are selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. All winners were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 23, 2019).

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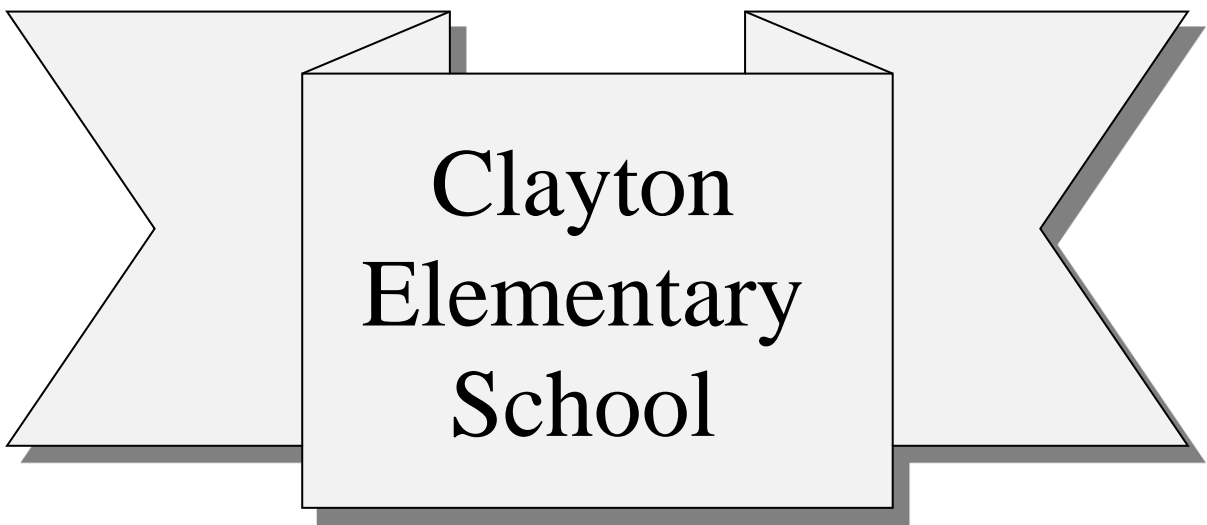
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Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

I am responsible. I can do my homework after I have dinner. I feel proud when I can do the work by myself.

Lilah Burke
First Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible. I feed my baby brother when mom is making dinner. I like helping.

Scarlett Kassien
Second Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible. I can be quiet on the carpet at school. I feel good when I follow the rules and get Cool Cat tickets.

Cara Scuse
Third Place, Kindergarten

My responsibility at school is to follow the rules. First, I stay quiet when the teacher is talking and I listen. Next, I walk quietly in the hallway. Last, when the teacher tells me to do something I do it. Do you need to follow the rules too?

Alexis Justice
First Place, First Grade

Responsibility means being someone who people can count on. I am responsible because I help my mommy with my 2 year old brother and my 10 month sister. I help watch my brother and my sister while my mommy takes the trash out or takes the dogs out. Responsibility is good because people can count on you to help them and trust you.

Ava Maldonado
Second Place, First Grade

I help my teacher a lot. I like to clean up. It is fun for me. I like to help my friends every day by helping them up. I like to help my mom every day by making dinner. I like to help my dad every day. It is so fun! That is responsible!

Aubrianna Whitby
Third Place, First Grade

Are you responsible? Responsibility is to do things on your own. Responsibility looks like when you clean your room, picking up trash even if it's not yours, turn off a light when you leave a room, and showing up on time. Responsibility is important because when you grow up if you're not responsible you could lose your job. If our world had no responsibility, our world be very dirty. The person that I know that showed responsibility is my grandpa. He showed responsibility by teaching the Army what to do. Who is somebody in your family that shows responsibility?

Ava Nix
First Place, Second Grade

Responsibility means doing the right thing. The most responsible person I know is Illyanna. She picks up others trash. She cleans up after other people. She helps out a lot. Illyanna helps people when their hurt too. Illyanna doesn't complain when she's asked to do something and doesn't do the wrong thing. She does the right thing all the time. It is important to be responsible because it will make your life better and easier.

Cameron Martinez
Second Place, Second Grade

Do you want to be responsible? Then you got to take care of your belongings. Pick up what you dropped, and do what you need to do also. My sister, Rylee, is very responsible. She does what she's supposed to do. She takes care of her belongings. She picks up whatever spill she sees and is very nice and thoughtful. Rylee is very organized. She puts her shoes where she will never lose them. Everything is in ship shape in her room. She never does anything bad to the house too. She never gives up on her homework. Responsibility is important because if you don't take care of the house it might come abandoned or ruined. And if you don't pick up a spill someone might slip and get hurt. If you don't put your shoes where you will find them you'll lose them and have no footwear instead of socks. A world without responsibility would be horrible and thrashy. Without responsibility the world would be a horrible place to live in. I bet if we had no responsibility we would be getting hurt each second.

Aiden McLaughlin
Third Place, Second Grade

Do you know what responsibility is? I do and I show it every day. The word "responsibility" means many things like being dependable and reliable, doing your chores, getting your school assignments done on time or keeping an eye on your little brother or sister. Another meaning is not blaming others for your actions and doing what is right. Why is it important to be

responsible? Well, if you didn't show responsibility you can get into trouble. Voltaire once said "with great power comes great responsibility." It is very important to show responsibility at home. These are some ways I show responsibility at home. I always do my homework even when I'm not told. My mom can count on me to get it done. I go to bed on time every day well except for weekends but everybody stays up on weekends. It is important to be responsible and go to bed on time so I'm not tired the next day. Last but not least I am responsible for my bearded dragon named Amelia. I feed her and let her climb on me for exercise. I am even getting her a harness because she is so adventurous. You probably already know this but showing responsibility at school is very important as well. There are tons of ways to show responsibility at school but here are some ways I show responsibility at school. I always make sure I finish my assignments on time and turn them in. I want to get good grades so I can pass 3rd grade. I am responsible by paying attention to the teacher. It is important to always know what to do. It is also important to be responsible with school items like your AR book. If you weren't responsible for your AR book it could get ruined or lost. Nobody enjoys reading a destroyed book. I am responsible most of the time, but there was one time when I was irresponsible. My mom asked me to go to bed but instead I decided to turn on my reading light and read until 8:40! I'm supposed to be in bed 8:00. That's 40 minutes after my bed time! If I had a restart button, I would have gone to bed on time. Since I stayed up so late, the next day I was so exhausted. We had a fun day planned but I was very tired and just wanted to sleep. I hope you always remember that being responsible is very important throughout your life. "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." Abraham Lincoln

Kaitlyn Chaplin
First Place, Third Grade

What if responsibility was not a thing? Then what would we do? Moms and Dads would not cook meals! Homework would not be done! Read on to find out how to prevent this.

Responsibility is when you are trustworthy and dependable. You also take blame. That is what responsibility is to me. You will also have more friends and people will trust you. Also you should take blame because you deserve punishment, not the person you blamed.

One of the main places to be responsible is at home. These are some of my responsibilities. First of all I have to feed my bearded dragon named Skrill. I also have to get my mom to sign my agenda. Then I have to empty out my folder.

Another place to be responsible is at school. These are very important things to do. I need to do my job which is messenger. I also have to do all the work I am given. You also need to be nice to everyone.

I am finally going to tell you how to be responsible in the environment. You should not litter. You also need to pick up trash. Finally you need to recycle things like plastic and tin cans.

But sadly I got mixed up not long ago. I tried to get into my sister's room and slammed the door in her face. Man, my parents made me wish I thought before I did it. That was one of the hardest responsibility lessons ever.

Please remember these tips. They will keep you out of trouble. Have fun being responsible.
(and remember Santa is still watching)

Edwin "Quade" Gray
Second Place, Third Grade

Responsibility is to take charge in something. Here's a famous quote by Martin Luther King Jr. "The time is always right to do what's right." It's important to be responsible because you'll be known as a good trustworthy person. It's important to be responsible for your actions so you don't get in more trouble.

Do you have responsibilities at home? Here's what I do. First, I feed my dogs. It's funny watching them eat. Second, I take my dogs to the vet so they can take a bath and stuff. Third, I hate combing my hair but it gets rid of the nappy parts.

Waham! Here's my responsibilities at school. First, put your name on your work so you don't fail it. Next, be at school on time so you don't have study hall. Lastly, get your jobs done so you don't have jobs later.

Here's ways to be responsible in your community. First, don't litter. It keeps our planet clean. Next, be good in stores so you don't get yelled at. Lastly, always pay attention to your belongings so nobody steals them.

I was playing my Xbox when I had to leave so left my house with the TV and Xbox on. What I could have done is turn off the TV and Xbox.

In conclusion, responsibility is when you do something great. It's important to be responsible because you'll have good reputation. My advice is to be a good person.

Liam Nye
Third Place, Third Grade

Somebody I think is responsible is my Mom Mom. Her name is Carol Modesto. My Mom Mom is really responsible because she does what she says. For example, if she says she will buy me cookies, then she will buy me cookies when she goes to the store to get stuff for her house and things to save for later in the year.

I rely on my Mom Mom because she is very trustworthy. I trust her a lot. I trust her because she will do anything I want her to do for me. She helps me do stuff and everything else you can imagine.

She does her part in the community. She is part of the Garden Club in Smyrna. She plants flowers around town and she donates books to libraries and to school libraries. In her garden

club she does a lot of other stuff to help the community and she plants flowers to keep bees around to help pollinate the flowers.

She always has a responsibility to do, such as volunteering her time. My favorite one is that she decides to read with Mrs. Hansen's kindergarten class every Tuesday at nine o'clock. She did it every year my siblings and I went through her class and this year she wants to read with her class even though none of her grandchildren are in her class she just thinks it is fun and it helps Mrs. Hansen.

She is good at cleaning up. I hate cleaning up because my room is a mess because I NEVER EVER want to clean up my room. She offers to clean it up but I say no because I do not want anybody to clean up my messy room. I love some messes like my room. But my Mom Mom and my sister are people who will spend their days in a plain white room and keep it clean FOREVER. Her house is so clean and neat. Except for a room that my uncle used to live in. It has food and old stuff everywhere.

My Mom Mom is a great lady. That is all I have to say about her. I love her a lot and other people should to because she helps OUR community look prettier. That is my "I Love SSD essay" about someone in my community that is responsible.

Mary Skaggs
First Place, Fourth Grade

Responsibility means reliable. When you are reliable you are being counted on and trusted. Responsibility looks like you for instance taking care of your pets. Responsibility is important because if you aren't taking care of your pet for instance it could get sick. A world without responsibility would look like you for instance not taking care of your pet instead of taking your pet outside and not feeding it you are watching tv or playing games. I know that what I said is being responsible because I know that if you are trusted with things and trusted to do the things you are asked or told.

One of my heros is my dad. He shows responsibility by paying his bills, watching our dog when me and my little sister aren't there. He also does the laundry and the dishes. He also says that we look nice every day. I love my dad to the moon and back. The effect of responsibility is you treating others that way you want to be treated if you treat someone nicely they are most likely to be nice back. The impact it has on a community is people being more nice and taking care of their stuff makes our community more nice, friendly, and clean.

One last person is my half-sister, Halle. She is nice, funny, kind, and caring. She takes me where I want to eat when she comes over. She can drive and is a great student at Polytech High School. She is a senior there. Anyway, what she does that makes her responsible is when she takes care of her dogs at her house, she compliments you when you see her and she isn't afraid of being herself or telling someone how she feels about them or herself.

One person that has to take responsibility are teachers. Teachers are reliable because they care for their students and also make sure their students are ok and without us kids wouldn't be so

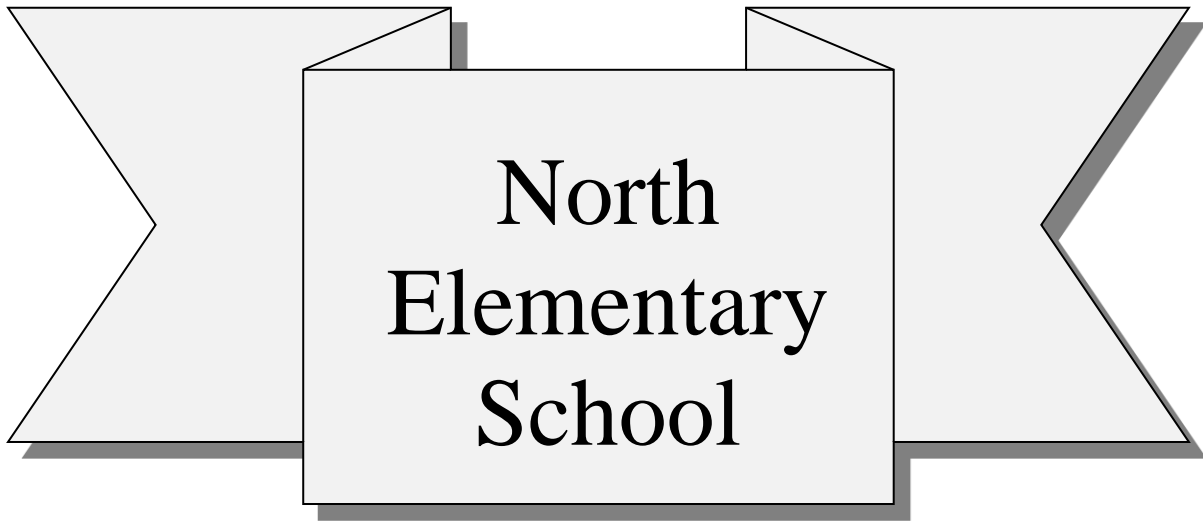
satisfied. Teachers have to make copies and print papers for their students. You may not think about it that much but you should so next time you see your teacher give them a big thank you. Librarians also have an important job because without them you wouldn't be able to practice reading. Most people don't want to read but for the people who do your books wouldn't be in order. It would just be a big mess.

So just know that if you take care of your pets, do your chores, make your bed, do your homework, and read a book every once in a while. You are responsible. So thank your teachers, librarians, and anyone else who is responsible. Also, make sure your being responsible and don't forget it means being reliable and trust so if you are trusted and reliable then you may call yourself responsible. Who is responsible to you and why?

Peyton Cobb
Second Place, Fourth Grade

Responsibility is being reliable, accountable, and following through on commitments. A person I think is all of these things is Makayla Lecates. She show responsibility by when someone ask her to do something she does it. Like one day when the fourth grade was playing at recess time Kamran Sudler was right about to kick the ball in kickball but then she trip over it. Mrs. Bordley ask someone to help her cause she was hurt and Makayla was the one who took Kamran to the nurse. When recess was over and when Makayla came back from the nurse Mrs. Bordley thanked her for being a good friend and for helping Kamran. She did what she was told to do and help her the best way possible. Also Makayla Lecates is responsible cause if she has an assignment or task she does her best and does her job and she always does her part with helping out. She also thinks about others and help those who are in need. You can count on her to be there for you if you need help. She will help out like when there is an event in school when you can bring something in, or wear something that you have to pay one dollar for she pays one dollar or sometimes she's really wanting to help so she pays more than a dollar like five or more dollars. She's really helpful in the community and always is a good friend and a good citizen. I pick Makayla Lecates cause she is an accountable, helping, caring, loyal, and a good friend that will help and will be there. I also pick Makayla cause when it was my first day at Smyrna School District she was there for me and sat at lunch with me and played at recess with me and most of all she made me feel welcome and like I belong. Also, she was there for me when I had got in a bad situation. I'm still happy that Makayla is my friend and she's there for me.

Milan Wiles
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

My mom is responsible. She helps me do laundry.

Emily Czech
First Place, Kindergarten

My CC is responsible. She makes sure that I don't get hurt.

Ava Lore
Second Place, Kindergarten

Mommy is responsible. She takes care of me.

Stella VanHekle
Third Place, Kindergarten

My parents are responsible. Lance and Angie are my heroes. Lance makes me breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They get me ready for school and at night. They taught me that $14 \times 14 = 196$. They keep me safe. They help me when I am hurt. They help me when I am sick. They help me with my homework. They buy me food and water. My parents walk me to school. They drive me to the doctor appointments. They are responsible for my life.

Aubrielle Conley
First Place, First Grade

Do you know a responsible person? My mom is responsible because she takes care of me and takes me to school and gives me food. She does the right thing when no one is looking. I love her.

Ryan Manjo
Second Place, First Grade

He is a good person. Mr. Joe does a very good job mopping! He is our responsible custodian. He cleans the school. He does not sleep that much. Thank you for being responsible!

Eddie Dzwonkowski
Third Place, First Grade

Responsibility means being dependable, trustworthy or taking care of another person. My mom is a person in my town who is responsible. My mom is responsible because she cleans up the trash that blows everywhere in the winter and puts it back in the trash can. My mom is also responsible by taking care of me and my sister and helping her family. One time my mom helped her mom by taking her to the dentist because she could not drive. Responsibility is important because it makes the world a better place.

Veda Ipnar
First Place, Second Grade

Responsibility means being dependable, trustworthy or taking care of another person. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a person that used to live in my country who changed the world by giving speeches. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted everyone to be equal and he brought the white and the black together. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped the world change in a good way. Responsibility is important because it makes the world a better place.

Mason Wilson
Second Place, Second Grade

My person that shows responsibility is my mom. It means to clean your own clothes, and wash your own dishes. This person helps my home by taking care of me, my dog and my dad. She feeds us, cleans my dad's and my clothes. My mom takes care of me, dad, and dog by making food for us and cleans the house for us. My mom cleans the dishes for me and my dad. She goes to the store every Wednesday to get us food. Responsibility is important because what if there was no responsibility everything would be wrong like the Lorax!

Melanie Pierce
Third Place, Second Grade

Responsibility is being nice to others like friends and family. Being clean and neat and not leaving trash around. You should help others if they need it and if you can! You should always take good care of the environment and the creatures that live in it. Have manners like saying please or thank you or no thank you, and may I. It helps you learn how to take care of pet`s or old family members. It can help you live when you are by yourself. Sometimes when you want to have a pet and your mom says you have to show enough responsibility then you can get it. You should try to do that!

It can teach you how to do things that people have tried to teach you but they couldn't so you learned yourself. My mom is responsible for making breakfast, lunch, and dinner. My stepdad is responsible for buying food for everybody. My mom mom is responsible for planning family

get together. My uncle is responsible for keeping me safe when I ride on his motorcycle. My pop pop is responsible for being a truck driver and making sure they are clean and not broken!

Without stop signs or red lights cars would be running into each other. Without responsibility people would be committing crimes. With responsibility people listen to rules and most people take care of the environment. If you do your responsibilities it builds character for when you grow up. It helps you do things when you live alone.

Zachary Cannon
First Place, Third Grade

Responsibility is being respectful by listening, you could even do your chores and help without being told to do it. If you are a kid like me, responsibility could just be doing your homework and help your parents clean. Also, responsibility could be when someone trusts you to do something.

Do you ever wonder why responsibility is important and what the world would look like without it? If there was no responsibility people would probably have no money, be on their phones all the time, and be lazy for instance. They will sleep all day or they will have no care for themselves or the people around them. From the reasons listed above, now you know why responsibility is important and what the world would look like without it.

Do you have anyone in your family who is a hero to you? I do. My mom and dad show responsibility all the time. My dad is a police officer and is always working and helping people, and he is very brave. My mom is always working and taking care of my little brother and me.

Aslyn Merrell
Second Place, Third Grade

What is responsibility? Responsibility is really good but do you know what it is? When I say responsibility I think of my sister. She shows responsibility by being trustworthy and a highly valued person in our community.

My sister also shows responsibility by listening, and letting people talk when they need to talk, also talking when she is supposed to be talking. She takes turns with all her toys she brings to school and gives a lot of compliments to people. Also she is so friendly and kind.

My sister helps people when they need help, and ask are you ok when your sad and also leaves people alone when they say they don't want to be bothered.

That is why when I say responsibility I think of my sister. She is the best sister in the whole wide world.

Devin Washington
Third Place, Third Grade

Remember when you last recycled something? That meant that you are responsible for the earth. Some of you may be asking how you were that responsible. Then this book will help answer your questions about responsibility.

First you may have been now asking. What is responsibility? That is a really hard question. First the definition of responsibility is how you do things. When you are responsible you do what you did. For example, remembering to do your own homework is a responsibility. It also means doing something instead of telling a lie. For example, studying for a test instead of playing video games. Another is doing good things from a decision. For example, throwing away trash is a decision that was the better choice. Responsibility is cleaning your room without being asked. So responsibility means doing the right thing on time.

Sometimes most people do not care about responsibility. That means they do not know what a world with no responsibility looks like or matters. An easy way to see what a world without the good responsibility is by visualizing with text. A world with no responsibility has green skies and it is hard to breath. Trash is every place you look. Bad things happen. No responsibility is hard to live in! For example, you would not do any homework. So this is the reason why responsibility matters.

Next I know someone that is a great example for responsibility. His name is Thomas Porch and we are great friends to each other. Thomas is a great friend. He can show big responsibility in any way even when he doesn't know it. He is a good citizen in school. One reason is he does not say rude things to people. The reason that stands out is if he did say just one rude thing, it is the blame game to us.

To us another reason is he is responsible to what he says. So when he says something he does it. We are responsible of being a team. So my friend is a very good example of being responsible.

Responsibility effects the world when people care. In my opinion, I think the people who do good deserve good treatment. For example, saving energy effects the world by having extra energy. So when you show responsibility people learn and they do something. So responsibility effects people.

Now that you know the real meaning of the big, big, responsibility. Think of ways you can be responsible for the community.

Nathaniel Reed
First Place, Fourth Grade

Responsibility means to be accountable for your actions or take care of your actions. Some ways to do it is by taking up your tray at lunch or taking up your tray at dinner or at your home. You can also do the dishes or help out the lunch ladies who receive the trays at lunch from students. Some people who might show responsibility are your local supermarket cashiers, teachers, or principals! If you want to know who mine is, keep reading. The person is really important.

The person is my mother and it might be yours too! However, other people will be like "What!?" but yes. How she shows or does responsibility is that she cooks for all of my family members plus guest. Also, responsibility is kind of like a job. And cooking is kind of like her job because none of us know how to cook. Another thing she does is that she takes care of us and that is her job too. My mother is always making sure things are done right, which also shows responsibility, since we are her kids and she is being dependable in a positive way.

I think responsibility is a real important role in humanity because it teaches kids to be independent. For example, when children put up their tray, it teaches them how to be responsible. Then they will feel good for their actions because an adult or someone near will say something nice like "good job". Then it will make the kid happy. Hopefully, it will make the kid get encouraged to do it again. Maybe the kid will tell others and they will do it too.

Responsibility is also an important role in your neighborhood or community. Just think of it. No responsibility in your community. There would be trash all around because it's the garbage people's job to pick up the trash. No clean restrooms, no kind teachers, or cashiers. Also you wouldn't even want to go to the beach. Nobody gets rid of the trash there. No clean beaches then. But that won't happen because humanity is responsible.

Hopefully this essay will change the way you thought about it because you might've thought that showing responsibility was being kind, but it means a whole lot. Also I hope this changed the way you see your parents. Your dad may also be responsible by going to work each day. This is how you can show responsibility. You my clean after yourself if you do so. Now you know that my mom and others show responsibility and how you can do it too!

Ousmane Ndiaye
Second Place, Fourth Grade

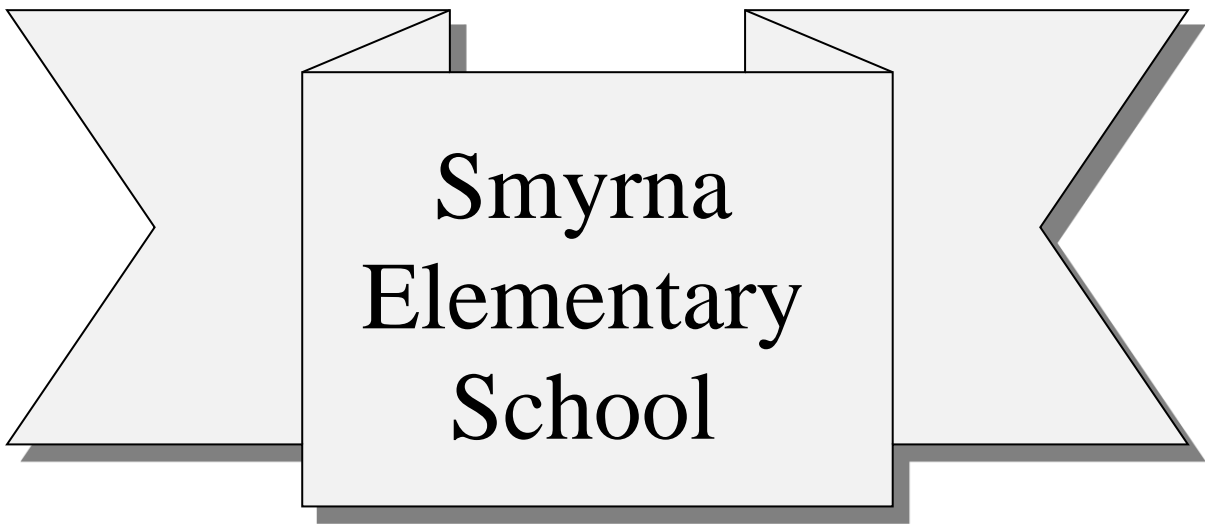
Do you know what responsibility means? Responsibility means something you are expected to do a task and you do it. It is kind of like reliable or trustworthy.

Do you know what a world without responsibility would look like? It think it would look kind of nasty or trashy because people litter on the road. Even for school, for example, it is important to go to school to get knowledge and to get smarter every day. However, in order to get to school you have to get up pretty early around 7:00 or 8:00 it is your responsibility to get dressed, brush your teeth, set your alarm, grab your backpack, and your coat if it is winter. That is all your responsibility for school. So you probably need a bunch of responsibility in a world.

Do you know someone who is your hero or shows responsibility? Well I do, my hero is my mom. My mom shows a lot of responsibility or our house, her car and even towards me and our family.

One way is she shows it toward me is she gets up on time to get me up for school. To make sure I get to school on time before it is too late. Another way she shows responsibility is she tells me what to do and what not to do. It is kind of like a life lesson. Like what she expects of me every day. She does it so I can become responsible and become a better person and a great person when I grow up.

Maliah Hopkins
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

I am responsible when I help my family. I clean the dishes. I clean my room. I help keep the earth clean and pick up trash.

Leah Alfree
First Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible because when I have clothes on the floor I pick them up and I put them on the bed. And I lay out my own clothes!

Rylee Sroka
Second Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible to do my chores. I have to take care of my animals at home and at the farm.

Isadora Russum
Third Place, Kindergarten

Do you know someone who shows responsibility? I do! Set shows responsibility because he puts his stuff up on a shelf and he is responsible because he takes the trash out of the house. That is how Seth shows responsibility.

Jaime Bond
First Place, First Grade

Jada is a responsible person. Because she is a safety patrol. And she helps kids get on the buses. And she remembers stuff. She remembers to bring her back pack. She remembers to get her folder.

Justis Seeney
Second Place, First Grade

Do you know someone who shows responsibility? I do! Military people show responsibility by they fight people who are trying to hurt us. It's important to be responsible because I no one was responsible everything would be a mess. Responsibility is very important.

Callie Kaczorowski
Third Place, First Grade

Hey hey are you responsible? I hope you are. You should be. Responsibility means doing the right thing without being reminded. A person I know that show responsibility is my daddy. I love him. He is responsibility because he gets up super-duper early and goes to work and he is one of the managers of flight safety. He teaches pilots to fly airplanes. To me that seems very hard. This is important so airplanes can take people to a place without crashing that would be trouble! Responsibility is important because you are being the best you can be. Do you think you are responsible? I'm responsible, you should be too! I hope you enjoyed my essay. I enjoyed writing this story. I hope you are responsible every day!

Julia Pahl
First Place, Second Grade

Be responsible so people don't have to do your responsibilities. Coach Drain is always on time. He gets all of the stuff we need and does not get mad when I mess up. If I never had a coach, then I would never learn. I know my coach will do his responsibilities like getting on time at practice and gets all the stuff we need. I can trust my coach to keep me safe. Do you know what responsibility is?

Jourdan Wright
Second Place, Second Grade

Responsibility is being reliable and accountable. What do responsible people do? This is about a responsible person.

A person that show responsibility is my daddy. Daddy takes care of me and daddy goes to work every day. This is important because he keeps me safe and cares about me. Responsibility is important because it can keep everyone safe.

That was my essay all about a responsible person. Remember being responsible means reliable and accountable. How do you show responsibility?

Cora Schichting
Third Place, Second Grade

A person in my life who shows responsibility is my Dad. He has to take care of me and my brother every day. He also has to go to work even though those are everyday things he never forgets to do them. Without my dad we wouldn't have the same world.

My dad is nice and always remembering to show respect. We should all have dads like mine. He comes to all my soccer games and all my brother's things too. Responsibility means being reliable and it also means people can count on you. Well my dad can do that.

Whenever I ask a question he can answer it. My dad is described as a trustworthy person and a reliable person. You will never be ashamed of my dad. He is a good worker and an awesome citizen.

If you don't have responsibility my dad will be your role model. My dad always remember to feed me, my puppy, and my brother. He is a very nice worker too. He is even a boss. We should all be like my dad and all be good people.

You should never underestimate my dad. He is nice and brave too. He is an amazing employee at his job. He always takes credit for his mistakes. I love my dad a lot. I will love him forever.

I know my dad wouldn't lie to anybody at all. My dad is an awesome guy. He could be the President of the USA. Those are all the reasons my dad shows responsibility.

Samantha Frost
First Place, Third Grade

My mom is the most responsible person. Responsibility is being reliable or not being late to something, living up to your words. Also that means following through on commitments! My mom does that all day every day. Without responsibility the world would be dirty, nasty, cold hearted and full of rudeness. I just would not be pretty whatsoever. Everybody would be living miserably without knowing it. My mom is amazing she is my hero because when she isn't even having her best day. She will be responsible no matter what. For example, my mom says like I'm going to get you \$20 for book fair. She's going to have it for me. The community would be horrible without responsibility that is like saying no police or firemen. She also cooks dinner every night. If you don't think she's responsible I don't know what is. My mom is on top of her game. She like makes sure I have food to eat every night. She also makes sure I'm clean. Without my mom I would be dirty, naked, cold and homeless. Now you know who is most responsible.

Tabiah Croom
Second Place, Third Grade

Do you know someone who is responsible? I do. They are my parents. My parents are very responsible because I can talk to them about anything and they'll keep it a secret if I want them to. I think responsibility is very important and everyone should show it.

My parents are trustworthy. I can trust them to be kind to me and my brother. They are honest and supportive. They are also reliable. I can rely on them to be there when I need them to love me, help me, and acknowledge me.

Something else you should know about my parents is they are respectful. They are never hurtful to me or my brother. They respect my ideas and my brother's and they never ignore me. They are loving to me and my brother even if we aren't perfect.

My parents make sure I'm safe, healthy, kind, and not hurtful to others and my brother. My parents work for each other and our family to make sure we have food, clothes, shelter, and a good life. My parents are very helpful too. They help me study, be educated and smart. My parents are the most responsible people I know!

My mom works at a school. She is responsible when she helps kids and other people like me and my family. She loves me and my family so much. My dad is responsible too. He works hard when he does projects. He always takes his time on them and loves his family. When he gets home from work he cooks dinner for my entire family. He also loves me and my family so much!

A responsible person is somebody you can rely on, someone who is trustworthy, honest, respectful, and kind. My parents are all of these things. I love my parents a lot and they are an important part of my life.

Jack Simonini
Third Place, Third Grade

Responsibility is doing a job to the best of your ability, being reliable, following through on commitments, and being accountable. If you could imagine the world without responsibility, what would it be like? To me, it would look like crime, everybody so independent they don't trust anybody, (and I mean anybody) and people lying.

To me, the people who show the most responsibility in my community, off the top of my head, other than my family are my next door neighbors the Greylocks. To start off, they are the most dependable people (other than family) that I could think of, off the top of my head. I can depend on them if I need anything such as information on where to find something or if for example we were trying to find the best restaurant to go to we could ask them their opinion.

They are also very accountable. This one time, there was a horrible storm and their trampoline blew from the other side of their yard, across their pool, almost knocked over our fence, the trampoline (yes, it has a mind of its own) decided to break our zip ties and the fencing part was sort of hanging off. My dad got home late so he couldn't have done it, plus he said he wasn't going to fix it and my mom doesn't do that. The next morning it was fixed by the Greylocks.

The Greylocks also are very trustworthy. People all along my street can trust them to always do the right thing. Sometimes I go bike riding with their son, Ryan, and he picks up bags, smashed cans, and other litter on the street.

The Greylocks are very responsible people. If you don't think so, just look at all the things I've come up with. Maybe if you met her, you could come up with more.

Lucas Blair
First Place, Fourth Grade

My dad show responsibility because he is very reliable, trustworthy, and very committed.

He is very reliable because he gives us food, clothes, shelter, and birthday and Christmas gifts. He is always being honest too. My dad gets me a lot of things like shoes, games for my Xbox, and lets me go to my friend's house whenever I want.

My dad is also very trustworthy. He sticks to his word all the time. You can trust him not to be late, pick me up from school, or come on a field trip with the class and help Mrs. Hurlock.

He also shows commitment. He gets up at 4:00 a.m. to go to the gym and get to school by 7:00. He also makes certain that we get on the bus and have Mimi and Far Far to watch us when we get up.

This is why I think that my dad shows a massive amount of responsibility.

Matthew Passero
Second Place, Fourth Grade

I think my older sister, Kayla, is very responsible. I think this is because on days she has to work she gets up really early and even though she might not want to go to work she gets out of bed and starts getting ready. She has two jobs and in the morning she works one and on some nights she works the other.

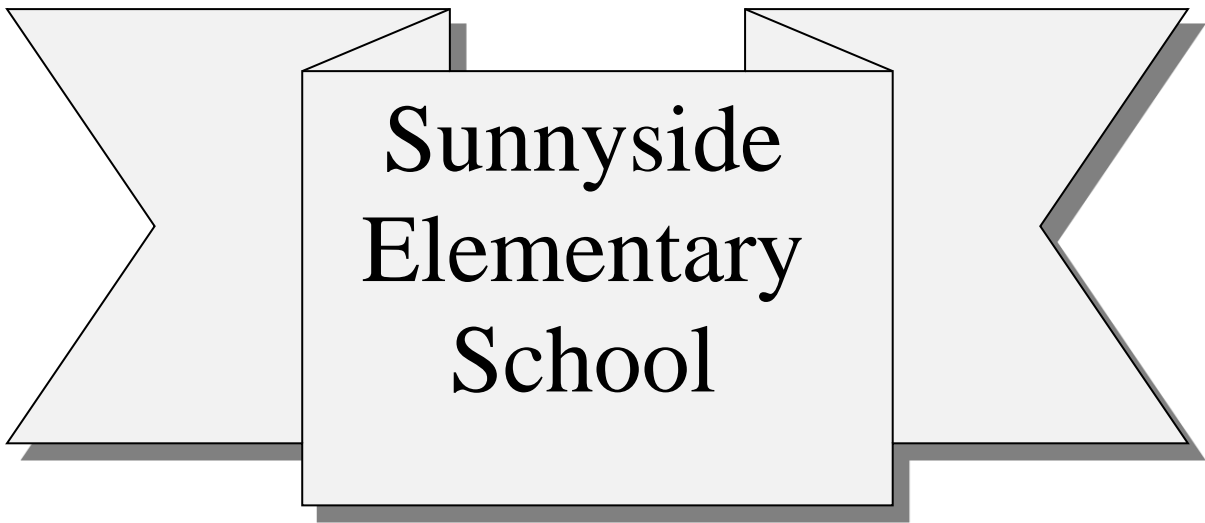
She also has another really big responsibility and that is to take care of me and my other sister when my mom is working. She makes sure we get to bed on time on school nights and another thing she does is make us dinner (which is always delicious).

My sister has a lot of responsibilities and another one of those responsibilities is she has to be nice to her customers at both jobs. She has to make sure she gets the orders right as well and also she has to make sure to give the customers the right amount of change back.

She also has to take care of herself which she does. She eats healthy, she works out and gets exercise, she makes sure to eat her vitamins, and drinks a lot of water.

This is why I think my older sister, Kayla, is responsible.

Myleigh Sullivan
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

I am responsible when I clean up the cafeteria.

Danielle Smith
First Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible when I tell the truth.

Anaiya Rush
Second Place, Kindergarten

I am responsible when I make my bed.

Lilliana Pope
Third Place, Kindergarten

Responsibility means following through on commitments. Our custodians are responsible because they clean for us. If we didn't have them, our school would be dirty. This is how our custodians help the community.

Oscar Jiang
First Place, First Grade

Responsibility means always doing your job. My grandma is responsible. She takes good care of me, Curtis, and Ally. She feeds Curtis, Ally, and me. She changes Ally's diapers. It's important to be responsible because she keeps us safe and happy.

Abigail Cottman
Second Place, First Grade

Responsibility means always doing your job. My mom is responsible. She takes care of me and my brother. She drives me to school. She is very kind! It is important to be responsible because it provides self-efficiency.

Ryan Brewer
Third Place, First Grade

My mother is one of the most responsible people I know. My mother is a nurse. She helps make sure people can feel better fast.

My mother works at Dover hospital. She makes sure the doctor has all of the supplies he needs, when he needs them. She also helps the community by helping others when they need help. If my mother was not there, the nurses would not be able to help patients every day.

My mother's actions are responsible, because she makes sure that patients feel fine and safe. This is how my mother takes care of the patients. She peeks in the door every ten minutes to check on them. If my mom was not there, the patients could get very sick and might pass away.

My mom's actions are important, because nurses take care of the citizens in our community. Responsibility means being someone who can be depended on. Who are the responsible people you know?

Selena Mujica
First Place, Second Grade

Responsibility is taking care of your actions. Being responsible is important because people count on you to do it. My grandfather tells me to help with my grandmother like getting her medicine if she forgot. The person who shows responsibility is my grandfather. He takes care of my grandmother by helping her when she was sick in the hospital. He also made sure he fed her. My grandfather takes care of the cats, feeds them, gives them water, change the litter boxes, and he has to give them love! My grandmother died Tuesday, August 22, 2018. My grandfather had to make sure that everyone at the funeral was comfortable. I am glad people believe in each other. If someone gets hurt they will not be left to suffer. I'm so proud my grandfather shows responsibility. He makes the world a better place.

Riley Wilson
Second Place, Second Grade

Responsibility is to take care of ourself by doing good in school and taking care of our family. Responsibility looks like caring about others and doing the right choices. Responsibility is important because you want to do the right thing. Without responsibility our world would look like robbing kids, doing bad stuff, and being rude to others. My dad is responsible because he takes care of his family, his job, and his community. He shows responsibility by making sure his family is safe, building houses for others, and working with the community. My dad makes the community better by being responsible.

Naomi Caballero
Third Place, Second Grade

I look up to many people, literally. I look up to my dad the most, not because I'm short, but because I admire him. My dad keeps my sister and I safe. Responsibility means being reliable and dependable. My dad is responsible at home, outside of the house, and at work.

First, my dad is responsible at home, he keeps me and my sister safe by watching us to make sure we don't get hurt. He also makes sure we have enough food. He does the laundry too, then, he hauls it to our rooms and hangs it up in our closets. He washes the dishes and puts them away in the cabinets. He also prepares us dinner and gets us breakfast. He mows the lawn and pulls the weeds. He says good night to us and then goes to bed, and then wakes up the next morning and gets ready for work. I'm glad that I can depend on my dad.

My dad isn't just responsible in the house, he's also responsible outside of the house. My dad goes to the store a lot to buy breakfast and cook dinner. He takes me to get haircuts at Great Clips. He runs errands like filling up my mom's tires with air and filling her car with gas. One day my basketball coach was not there so my dad volunteered to coach for that day and he was responsible for teaching us what to do that day. I told you my dad was responsible outside of my house!

Finally, my dad is responsible at work. He works at a restaurant called Honey Grow. He works hard to make what people want like stir fry. He works with his co-workers to make the best food possible for his customers. He goes to meetings a lot to get better at his job. He gets up at a good time and gets ready for work. He also gets home at a good time so he is able to see my sister and I. See my dad is also a responsible citizen at work.

All in all, my dad is a very positive influence in the Smyrna-Clayton community and he has a lot of responsibilities. He works hard each day to make sure that his customers have a good place to eat. Again, I look up to my dad one, because I am short and two because he's a good person and I want to be like him when I grow up.

Xavier Spelock
First Place, Third Grade

I have a lot of responsible people in my life, and my mom is one of them. I chose my mom for responsibility because she is responsible for a lot of things. Responsibility is when you can depend and rely on someone. My mom goes to work, she is a dependable parent, and she helps around the community. She is truly the one I look up to.

To begin with, my mom is responsible for food being good to eat at work. She helps in customer service by checking the prices of the item. Next, she makes sure everything is healthy to eat and not expired so no one gets sick. Last, she helps find things the customers need or ran out of. If they don't have it on the shelf, she can get it for the customer. This shows my mom is a responsible worker.

In addition, she is a dependable parent. At home she cooks dinner so I have something to eat. Imagine if she did not! That would be horrible! So, that's why I cook with her so I know how. Next, she checks to make sure I have clean clothes to wear like shirts, pants, socks, and towels.

Last but not least she takes me to the dentist, and doctor to see if I'm healthy or have any allergies like food, animals, or plants. In my opinion, she is a very dependable mom!

Finally, mom helps around the community too. She donates money to people that are poor, when she can, so they have food to eat and have a shelter. She also gives a lot of clothing to God's Way, likes shoes, shirts, pants, and books when we grow out of it. Another thing mom does to help in the community is pick up trash on the ground so the earth is not polluted or dirty. There sure are good ways my mom helps in the community.

After all my mom uses her responsibility at home, at work, and in the Smyrna Clayton community. My mom is my hero and I look up to her. In my opinion, she is a great mom.

Raegan Justice
Second Place, Third Grade

Responsibility means being reliable. Mr. Grant is responsible because he takes care of our school and children that are in our school. Responsibility is also being nice, sweet, and kind. Responsibility is important to help our community. I know Mr. Grant is responsible because he has to wake up early in the morning to go to work and his job is hard to do. I know Mr. Grant is a good principal because he walks down the hallway to check on the teachers and children, to see what they're doing for each subject.

Mr. Grant is responsible for our school, children, and teachers. He is also our school principal and he is nice and kind. He has to wake up every morning early and do his job. That's a lot of work to do. When there's a fire drill, he makes sure everybody in the school gets out safe before he gets out of the building. I picked Mr. Grant because he is a good person, good principal and he is responsible for our school.

Children at Sunnyside Elementary School think he's caring. Mr. Grant helps the community by bringing us together at Sunnyside Elementary School and making it feel like a positive community. Mr. Grant is kind and sweet to others. Mr. Grant takes care of us when there is a real emergency at school. I picked Mr. Grant because he shows responsibility and respect for others all the time.

Milan Sadar
Third Place, Third Grade

In my words responsibility is the act of being trustworthy, and showing civility. Responsibility is important because it helps us become better people and citizens in our community. If no one showed responsibility I bet our community would fall apart. "I will take responsibility for my words and actions." This sentence means you will take the blame for the actions you have done.

Responsibility can have a great impact on our community. If everyone doesn't show responsibility your classroom for example would be complete chaos. Without responsibility

your classroom would be loud, dangerous, and maybe even some bullying. If you have a classroom with responsible classmates your classroom most likely would be clean, quiet, and no bullying. Now you see how much of an impact responsibility has on our community.

Every day at school my friend, Khloe Thomas, shows responsibility by coming in the classroom by unpacking her stuff, doing her morning work, and reading her AR book. I showed responsibility when me and my brother were playing ball in the house and I broke a vase. When my mom asked who did it I told her the truth. My brother was playing soccer and broke a lamp, but when my dad asked who did it he said it wasn't him. If people show responsibility in our community it might just make a big difference.

Taylor Rybicki
First Place, Fourth Grade

Responsibility is one thing that makes our world the way it is. By being responsible you always work hard, tell the truth and do the right thing. No matter what you do what is going to be fair and right. If not one person was responsible our world would be a chaotic and dangerous disaster. A world of irresponsible people may sound fun but it would be a real mess.

Even if everyone does something small it adds up to a lot. It makes our communities cleaner, more organized and a more positive place to be. Responsibility is what keeps things running. It can go from following every day rules to organizing a town or a city clean up or anywhere in between. Responsibility has a gigantic, outstanding effect when everyone get together and tries their best.

Everyone makes mistakes but when we try our hardest we see unforgettable change in our communities. All over we see people being responsible every day. Responsibility changes the world. Being responsible can change us too. Everyone can be responsible, the choice is yours.

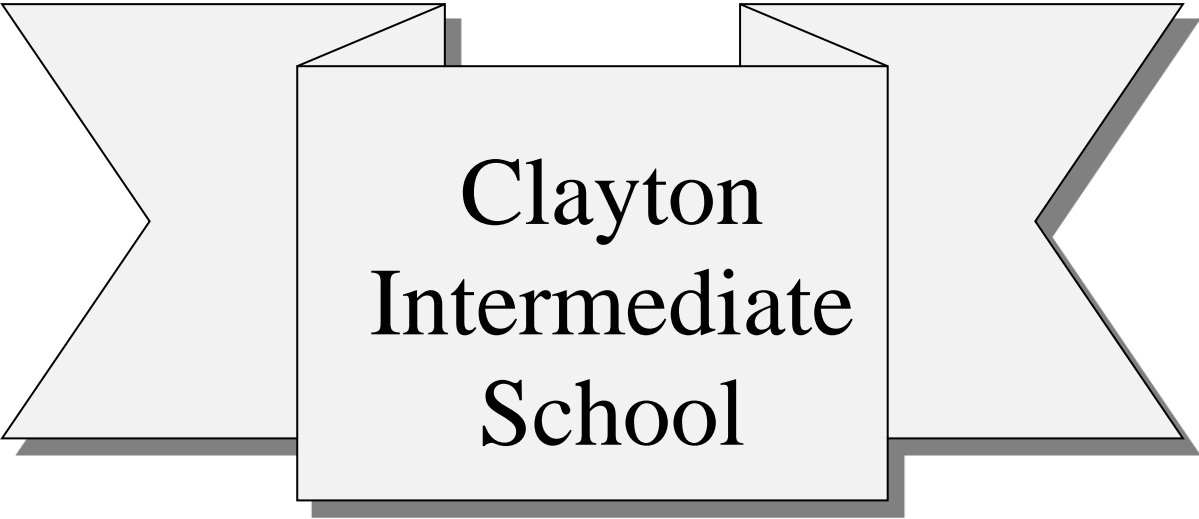
Madelyn Margavage
Second Place, Fourth Grade

Do you make sure you are taking responsibility in what you are doing? One responsibility I have is giving food and water to my dog and guinea pig. Another responsibility I have is to do my best in school. Finally, it is my responsibility as a citizen to vote! I can show many ways of responsibility.

There are many ways to be responsible. These are some of mine. At home, it is important to take care of my pets, so they stay healthy. At school, it is important for me to get good grades to pass my tests that I take. As a citizen, it is important to keep the community clean and help others decide a leader for America. When I do these things, I make sure I am taking responsibility and pride for what I do.

Would you like to know what the world would be like if there were no rules? Think about it: it would be horrible if you could do nothing but eat or sleep or even not go to school. Things would be stolen and lost for nobody to ever find. Laws wouldn't have to be enforced and police officers wouldn't even have to work. Even worse, plumbers or fire fighters. Think about how you can take responsibility in your work or school. Think about how you can try to follow the laws or even try to enforce them like many people do now!

Isaiah Winslow-Hill
Third Place, Fourth Grade



Clayton
Intermediate
School

Grades 5 and 6

Do you know a responsible person? I hope you do, but if you don't I am going to tell you about a person I know very well. She is not just anyone. The person I picked is my Aunt Kim. She shows responsibility by taking care of her kids, teaching her students, and taking care of her house. Before I continue keep in mind she is a single mom and does it on her own. The definition of responsibility is "A duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure." A quote that Abe Lincoln once said was, "You can't escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." Here is how my Aunt is responsible.

One way my Aunt Kim shows responsibility is by teaching honors ELA students at the Smyrna Middle School. Teachers have a lot of responsibility by making lessons, grading, communicating with parents, students, and other teachers about how students are doing in class. She also does school tutoring. She doesn't just do things for school in the school year. She has to read books over the summer to be ready for the school year. You have to give teachers credit for what they do for kids. Teachers teach the future of the US. That is how my aunt is responsible by teaching.

Another way my Aunt is responsible is by taking care of her two kids (Skylar and Connor). She is a single mom and does a lot for her kids. She has to make sure they get from place to place safely, help Connor with homework, and to make them food. She also takes them to sports games and practices. Connor does cross country, travel ball for Wolfpack, basketball, and baseball. Skylar does softball for a travel team at the high school. Travel ball is not just a day, it's all weekend. She has to get hotels and cabins to be at their games in the morning. Just think about everything she could do at home. Connor goes to baseball camps, but she has to stay with him. When they go to the camps they have to stay at different places because Connor stays with his team. She shows a lot to her time to her kids. This is how responsible she is by taking care of her kids. They are lucky to have a mom like that.

The last way she is responsible is by taking care of her house. When it comes to your house everyone does it different. My Aunt has to pay her bills, and pays for her grass cutting service. She also has to pick weeds, dust, sweep, and do laundry. My Aunt likes her house clean and perfect just like my mom. That's why when I go to my aunt's house it feels like home. That is how my aunt is responsible by cleaning and taking care of her house.

My Aunt has impacted my life on how responsible she is. She shows the most responsibility by teaching her students, taking care of her kids, and taking care of her house. She has made me more responsible. She shows me that you can be responsible and have a good life. I want to be just like her when it comes to responsibility. I have an amazing aunt. Thank you for being an amazing Aunt!

Jaylen Ryan
First Place, Grade 5

What comes to mind when you think of responsibility? My dad comes to my mind. According to the Smyrna School District "Responsibility means being a person who takes charge of or can be trusted with important matters." My dad is that. As Winston Churchill once said, "The price

of greatness is responsibility.” My dad is hardworking and always puts food on my family’s table. My dad always remembers to be there for me. He is my role model and I want to follow in his footsteps. Mitt Romney once said, “Leadership is about taking responsibility, not making excuses.”

My dad works really hard on our farm day in and day out. My dad demonstrates responsibility because he always makes sure that all the cows are fed and well taken care of before he would do anything else. For instance, if any of our cows are acting strange, he will always check on them. If they are sick, he makes sure the vet gets there just in time. My dad also always makes sure that the cows have enough bedding to sleep on and have a clean stall. During fair season, my dad has to help make sure the halter are all clean. He is very responsible because our farm would probably go under without him.

Another example of responsibility is, my dad always remembers to come to my events. For instance, when I show my cows at the state fair, and my dad is working with my brother or my sister, he watches my show in the arena. Another example is that when I have lacrosse practice and he still has to do his teacher work, he always does his school work at lacrosse practice and watches me at the same time. Furthermore, my dad always comes to school events like when I was in chorus, he would always come to my concerts. This was hard for him because he had to help his students with livestock judging, so he would split his time. He would do part of the night with his students and then part with me. My dad multitasks in ways that other people can’t.

Third, my dad always tries to make time for my family while working with someone or something else. For example, when my dad had to take me and my brother to a show in Virginia, my mom had a broken leg. He had to get ready only with my brother. It took him a lot of work to get all those things including the cows in the trailer before 5:00. Another example is that when me and my brother had to go home and my dad had a meeting to go to, he would take us home first and then make dinner then feed the cows and then leave. Furthermore, my dad always had to feed the cows and go to church at 9:00 a.m., he would always get up at 5:00 in the morning, feed the cows, get a shower, get dressed, and then eat breakfast. My dad always makes time for me and my family no matter how long he works.

To sum up my thoughts, my dad is a very responsible role model each and every day. I want to be just like him when I grow up. He has changed my family by being so responsible. He has persevered through some tough times. As Abraham Lincoln once said, “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading today.” My dad NEVER evades responsibility, he embraces it.

Gillian Shane
Second Place, Grade 5

Do you know what responsibility means? I know someone who fits the definition perfectly. Someone in my life that demonstrates responsibility every day is my dad. My dad demonstrates responsibility everyday by running his business, taking care of his family, and helping in the community. The definition of responsibility is “A duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or

complete a task that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure.” Abraham Lincoln once said, “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

One way my dad shows responsibility is he has his own business. The way my dad demonstrates responsibility is he works long hours and weekends to keep workers working and the business moving. Also, he makes customers happy and delighted. He also tries his best even when he is not feeling well. He has a lot of ways he demonstrates, but I promise this is the last one that I will tell you. When there is a problem that workers do then my dad has to fix or pay for the problem to be fixed.

The next way my dad shows responsibility is taking care of family. The way my dad demonstrates responsibility is working hard every day and never giving up. He also provides everything we need and want for the family. Dad provides money for clothes, bills, shoes, a roof over our head, FUN activities, and amazing vacations. Another way is he takes care of the house part-time.

Another way my dad shows responsibility is helping in the community. One way my dad demonstrates responsibility is he painted the Smyrna High School football concession area for free. He also painted Lake Como’s pavilions for free. The next way is he pressure washed Smyrna Middle School’s entry way and sign for free. He also painted the chain link fence for free at Smyrna High School.

In conclusion, some ways my dad has impacted my life is by him being responsible, has taught me to be responsible too! I am responsible by doing my homework on time, emptying the dishwasher part-time, and get assignments turned in on time. My dad has shown me how to be a responsible business woman. When selling Girl Scout cookies, I set a goal and work extremely hard to reach my goal. My dad demonstrates responsibility every day and I can’t thank him enough for showing and teaching me responsibility!

Madison Snow
Third Place, Grade 5

I have demonstrated responsibility quite a few times in my life. I was reliable and committed to do my best and take the fall for my actions. The definition of responsibility is being reliable and following through on your commitments. What I believe responsibility is, is being reliable and living up to your mistakes. One quote that demonstrates it is “It is only when you take responsibility for your life that you discover, how powerful you truly are.” - Allanah Hunt.

Once when my parents had to go and run a few errands I watched my siblings. I also watched our two dogs. I watched them and made sure that the dogs didn’t make a mess. Also that my brother and sister were safe and not getting into trouble. Responsibility was demonstrated while I was doing this because I was reliable and took care of them.

Another time was when my parents were tired and had had a hard day at work. As a result I put my siblings to bed. Since I have been so reliable while doing this it is now a routine and I put my

brother to bed. My parents work very hard so this is one way to repay them. This is a demonstration of responsibility because I made sure that they were safe and in bed.

Most of the time while I am cooking or baking with my mom I make a pretty big mess. Since this is not my mom's fault I take responsibility for my actions. I clean the pots, pans, bowls, utensils, and the counter. This shows that I can take responsibility. The demonstration of responsibility is me living up to my mistakes and cleaning up after myself.

All of these demonstrations of responsibility has helped me learn how to live up to my actions and mature. I have learned maturity and the ability to take care of others. Also to take responsibility for my actions. My maturity has reached new levels. I can do the things I love and then clean up after I'm done.

Montana Johannsen
First Place, Grade 6

Essay not approved for print.

Aubrey Downward
Second Place, Grade 6

Little children usually aren't very responsible. My older sister is responsible even though she's a child. Her name is Leyticia and she's very responsible. Responsibility is being reliable to do stuff. It includes doing what you say you will do on time. It has a consequent penalty if you don't do it. Spider-Man once said, "With great power comes great responsibility." My sister, Leyticia, demonstrated responsibility when she bathed my sister, did her homework on the weekend, and did the dishes.

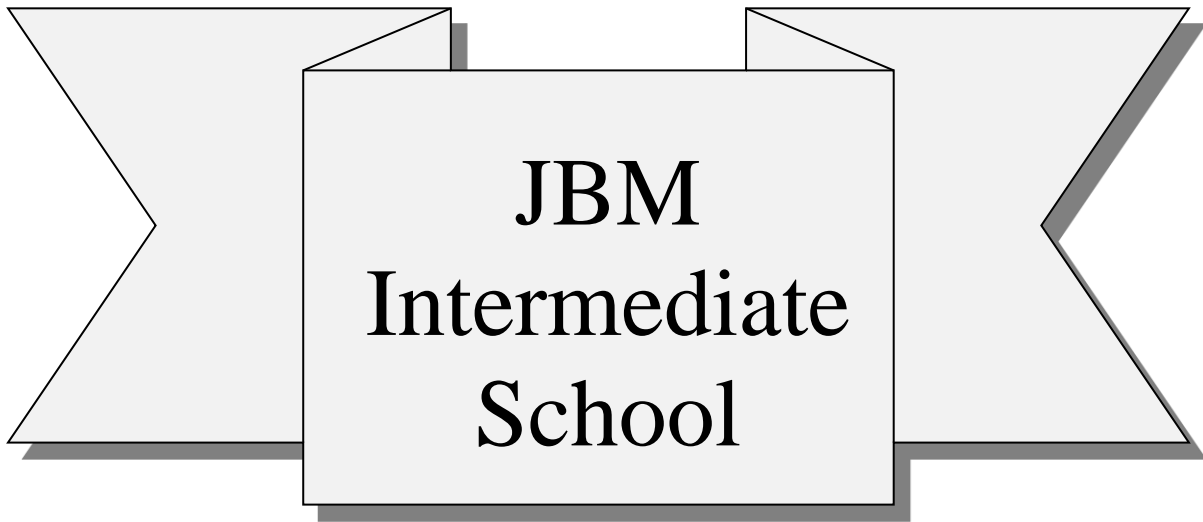
To begin, my mom had to go to pick up my step-dad from work. She left me and my sister alone with my baby sister. Then, my sister bathed my baby sister after she did her homework. Responsibility was demonstrated because Leyticia bathed my baby sister without anyone telling her to. As a result of that, my mom was surprised and happy when she knew that she did it.

To continue, my sister came back from school and had homework to do. It wasn't due the day she came back to school, but the day afterwards. Leyticia still did her homework on the weekend. Responsibility was demonstrated because she did her homework as soon as she got it and not at the last moment. As a result of that, she had more time to enjoy herself.

Furthermore, Leyticia had to do the dishes. It was already dark outside. While she was doing the dishes, I added a plate and cup and she didn't complain. Responsibility was demonstrated because she did the dishes without anyone telling her to. She also knew that she had to do the dishes and that she shouldn't complain when we add to it. As a result, she had more time to do her homework. She also had more time to enjoy herself on the computer.

In conclusion, Leticia demonstrated responsibility when she bathed her sister, did her homework, and washed the dishes. I learned from her that I should do my work before playing. Now I start to have a plan for every day. Now I also know that I should do my work as early as possible. Now I know that I should be responsible for what I do.

Anael Ductan
Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 5 and 6

“If you hang out with chickens, you are going to cluck and if you hang out with eagles, you're going to fly” - Dr. Steve Maraboli

Think of a responsible person in your life. What do they do that makes them responsible? Do they have chores or a job? Do they always try their best when faced with a task? Do they lookout for the safety of others? I know a person like this, Mrs. Seibert!

Mrs. Seibert is a responsible person for many reasons. She always comes to school ready to work, teach, and assist students and staff members throughout the day. At home, on her own time, she continues her education for higher degrees and to expand her knowledge. She encourages students to do their best and persevere just like her.

While working, she is fun, kind, enthusiastic, patient, and has a positive mindset and attitude. No matter what challenges she faces, she never quits. Mrs. Seibert could be irresponsible by sitting around doing nothing, not coming to work, missing deadlines, and just being lazy; however she wouldn't do that. The parents of Mrs. Seibert's students depend on her daily to keep their children safe and out of harm's way. That's how I know that Mrs. Seibert is responsible.

Mrs. Seibert impacts my life and the lives of so many others not only by being a teacher, but by being a positive role model, a good friend/coworker, and an exceptional mentor, and thanks to her career her students can grow their knowledge and maybe even make their mark on the world and possibly help humanity.

As Dr. Steve Maraboli stated, “If you hang out with chickens, you are going to cluck and if you hang out with eagles, you're going to fly”. Mrs. Seibert guides and prepares her students for life so that when they leave the nest, they can take that leap, and soar like the eagles they are.

Harrison White
First Place, Grade 5

“With great power comes great responsibility.” This quote was said by the famous superhero, Spider-Man. Before I explain to you what this means, ask yourself, what is responsibility? There are many possible answers to this question, but to me responsibility is taking care of what needs to be done, even if you're not told to. This quote tells us that even the highest positions on earth require a lot of responsibility. A great example of responsibility would be my older sister, Abigail. She was left with the job of taking care of my two little sisters, and let me tell you, that's a lot of work.

My parents were at work, and my sister was in charge of my 2 little sisters. She had to make sure they were fed, they were safe, and they were entertained. Since one of my sisters aren't potty-trained, she had to make sure she went to the bathroom on time, and if she didn't make it she had to change her. She also took care of my 7-year-old sister when she slipped and hurt her knee, playing tag. Abigail immediately went to go see what was the matter, and when she learned what the problem was she went to go grab an ice pack and Band-Aid for her knee. She didn't just tell someone else to go check on her, or just see what had happened and then leave, but she took matters into her own hands. Now that's what I call responsibility.

After that, Abigail prepared dinner for us, and then went to do her homework. A little bit later, our parents finally came home. They asked Abigail how everything had gone, and after she gave them a quick summary of everything that had happened, my parents were very proud of her.

Abigail's wonderful demonstration of responsibility let me know that I could trust her and look up to her when I need help. Whenever I'm trying to decide whether to be responsible or not I think back to everything Abigail did, and remember the proud look on my parents' faces when they'd seen how well she'd done. It makes me want to be responsible too.

Responsibility is one of the most important core values in not just Smyrna School District, but in life, and during that whole time Abigail demonstrated it. Even when there's an easier way out, if it's not the responsible way, it's not the right way. Besides a lot of the time being responsible is easier than having to bear the consequences of not doing the right thing. You could be responsible just by making sure your home planet is clean and picking up a piece of trash that you see on the sidewalk. Just by doing that, you could begin making a huge difference. When you're trying to decide whether to take the responsible way or the easy way, choose to be responsible, you could make a huge difference.

Hadassah Pierre-Louis
Second Place, Grade 5

There is a famous quote by Winston Churchill that says... "the price of greatness is responsibility." The person who I'm talking about is my Dad. He shows exactly what that quote means, if you want to be great you have to be responsible.

My Dad is responsible because when something bad happens, he always knows how to fix it. He also cooks amazing food for us. When I need something like when I'm sick, he will get it with no delay. Over the summer our family had a broken oven and he fixed it about five hours after it broken. There are a lot of kids in our house and he finds time for all of us, even when someone takes up most of that time. My Dad also finds ways to take us on trips and vacations. His job is to help make sure water is clean.

My Dad will always make sure that we protected and safe. He wants everything is to be fair. One time our car broke down and he did everything he could to make sure that we were safe and we would get home as soon as possible. He always is doing the best for us and trying to be there for soccer games, guitar, and stuff like that. Me and family love to wrestle him because he is super strong. He is super smart and helps us with our homework.

See my point? My Dad is super responsible and helpful. He is just the most responsible person I know and I am glad that he is my Dad. I love him so so much. I feel like the happiest kid in the world when he is around.

Jack Grabowski
Third Place, Grade 5

“Ninety-nine percent of all failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses”.
~ George Washington Carver

To me, this means that failing does not have to be justified by excuses because it’s okay to fail. The dictionary definition of *responsibility* is “A duty or obligation to satisfactory perform or complete a task (assigned by someone or created by one’s own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent or penalty for failure”. What *responsibility* means to me is sacrificing comfort or luxury for something that you have to do; your responsibilities.

An amazing example of responsibility is my dad, Anthony Carter, who joined the Marines and when he was honorably discharged, the Army, so he could provide for his family which is his *responsibility*. Doing so, he was deployed twice, and was away from his family for about three years total, but only so he could provide for me. As a result of being in the Army, every so often he must leave for about a week to what he calls “prison”. Trust me, he hates having to leave probably more than I do, but he does it because it is a part of his *responsibility*. But, being in the Army does not fulfill all of his *responsibilities*; He is also a state police officer which means sometimes he works to the point where I don't see him for two days straight because our schedules clash, but once again, he does this because of the pay so he can take care of me, because that is his *responsibility*. Even though his schedule keeps him out of the house a lot, my dad manages to make time to hang out with me. He also makes time for himself because taking care of yourself is a part of your *responsibility*. I know for a fact that my dad does not enjoy going to work dealing with terrible people and arresting them all through the night, but as a police officer, that is his *responsibility*. Because *responsibility* is knowing that you have to do something and doing it even though you would rather, say, sit on the couch and eat cheese puffs while watching TV, and doing it when it isn’t convenient to do so.

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today”~Abraham Lincoln

To me, this means that no matter how long you put off your *responsibilities*, you will never really escape them. Because, once again, *responsibility* is knowing that you have to do something and doing it because you know that if you try to escape it will always catch up to you and I believe that my dad, Anthony Carter, is an amazing example of this.

Angalena Carter
First Place, Grade 6

Essay not approved for print.

Tory Barber
Second Place, Grade 6

“With great power comes great responsibility,” says Uncle Ben. This means that if you have the power to make a change then use it. I used my power at the Rehoboth Community Resource Center. At the Resource Center I worked in the food rescue. This is where food from stores and restaurants comes if it’s still good, but over the expiration date.

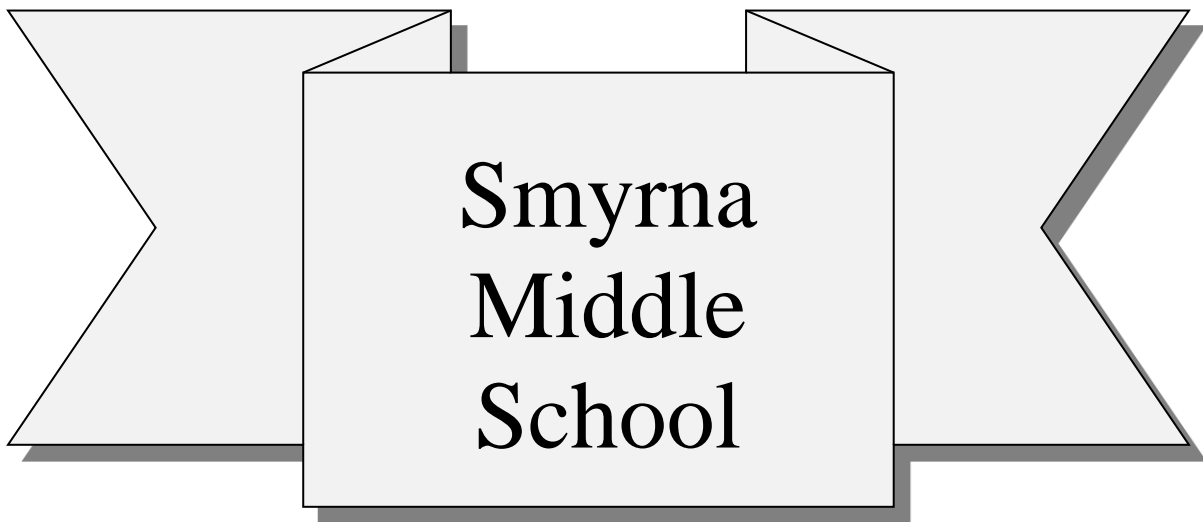
While working there I helped carry bags full of food to people’s cars, broke down boxes, restocked the shelves, and even walked one lady home. There wasn’t a moment I was just sitting around. If I wasn’t helping people to their cars, I was unloading a car with food to restock the shelves. The room we were in was crammed with shelves. Also, one moment the storage units were full, the next they were empty. Some people that came in had big families so they needed more food than others. Some people would walk out to an old beaten up car full with their things. Others would get into a posh car that was shiny. I just had to trust that they really needed the food they were given because it wasn’t my place to judge. One of my favorite jobs was breaking down boxes. The last thing I did at the food pantry was walk an elderly lady home. It was very uncomfortable because I didn’t know her and she kept trying to invite me into her house. I was trying to find excuses to get back to work so I didn’t have to be rude. Little did I know my grandfather was watching me the whole time.

I was responsible because I showed servitude, commitment, and perseverance. Servitude means that you serve or give back to your community. I showed commitment by completing Boy Scout homework. For my Citizenship in the Community merit I had to do eight hours of community service. The final way I demonstrated responsibility was I persevered. At some points I just wanted to sit down, but I kept working.

As a result of my good deeds I ended up in a newsletter and got a merit badge requirement signed off. All of the people who came in for food were grateful and happy. An impact that this deed left on me was it let me help others. Whenever possible I try to make a difference in someone's life. Being in the food rescue also opened my eyes to how many people need financial assistance. I felt that it takes courage to ask for help, but these civilians were brave enough to do what they needed to do to support their families.

I feel that I experienced Uncle Ben’s quote “With great power comes great responsibility,” by using the power I was gifted with to make a difference. Instead of tossing this wonderful capability aside, I used it. I loved getting to make a difference in the world, no matter how big or small. Remember you have the power to make a difference.

Mason Schulenberg
Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 7 and 8

Responsibility broken down is basically two words combined, response and ability. We as people are born with abilities different from others, our characters and endings are decided by our response to these abilities. Think about your life as a book, you are the author, the one to write your story. Your choices and responses to your problems and blessings decide on whether you get a happy ending or not.

Everyone has the responsibility to help taking care of humanity. Some will be less fortunate than others, what matters is that you do what you can to *soften* their fall, or try to make their life better as much as you can. If everyone doesn't pitch in their share, it can result in possible wars, violence, poverty, and selfishness. Can you imagine *another* world war? This time it would be much worse with the advanced technologies we have today. A world full of *dark* hate.... *That* is why we have to complete our responsibilities and help others. Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

Now, don't think that you have to do something huge. You can start with the small things. *Small* things can change a person's day *completely*. There are *millions* of small things you can do. You can give comfort to a sad person, hold the door for someone, do a chore for someone without telling them, or tell a joke, just to name a *few*. Accomplishing acts of kindness like these a day can not only make the other person happy, but also make you feel the same way. Knowing that you made someone's day *will* make you feel a sense of fulfillment.

Take the character Scrooge from "The Christmas Carol" by Israel Horovitz for example, he started off without completing his responsibilities as a human being, nonetheless even caring about them. Resulting in a mercenary, not knowing what true happiness was. For instance, the drama states, "I'd rather see myself dead than see myself with your family." (Horovitz, 745) This part proves his cold personality, even saying the worst to his own family. By shutting people out, he must feel lonely, even if Scrooge himself doesn't realize this. But, at the end of this drama, he *finally* realized his responsibility and started helping other people. This *radiated* a positive vibe from him and this time he knew that he was truly happy, along with everybody else. Such as when Scrooge says, "I thank you fifty times! Bless you!" (Horovitz, 745) This is something that the "*old*" Scrooge would have never said. By helping others, he was changing in a marvelous and positive way.

To wrap this up, you should now know the outcome of helping others and the *importance* of completing your responsibilities. No matter how small or how big an act of kindness is, it will help keep you and everyone else *happy*. Every day, ask yourself, "**Have I completed my responsibility?**"

Heather Thwin
First Place, Grade 7

The dictionary defines responsibility as a duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure. Responsibility can mean different things to many different people. Personally, I feel that responsibility means helping your fellow man and taking care of those less fortunate than yourself.

Helping the less fortunate is important because it gives meaning to our lives. When you help someone in need, it encourages others to do the same. Each year, my church congregation in Smyrna collects shoe boxes for “Operation Christmas Child” which provides Christmas gifts for underprivileged children throughout the world. My church’s congregation takes on great responsibility of bringing joy to those who otherwise would not receive any gifts.

Another important responsibility my church takes on is providing food for those in need in the Smyrna area. Every Wednesday, the First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna and the USDA Food Program provides meals and other foods for the needy. Also, my church’s deacons make up “Love Baskets” of holiday meals and other useful items for the less fortunate, so that they too can have what is necessary for their families to have an enjoyable holiday. Good deeds like these demonstrate how our community responds to the needs of others and not just ourselves.

In the drama, “A Christmas Carol” by Israel Horovitz, Ebenezer Scrooge despises the less fortunate and makes no attempt to help them. But throughout the story, Scrooge learns the importance of helping the needy and giving back to his community. Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by three spirits who taught him a meaningful lesson on how to turn his life around and be a more caring man. According to the drama, the author wrote, “If you please, not a farthing less. A great many back payments are included in it, I assure you, will you do me this favor?” (Horovitz pg. 804). In this quote, Scrooge woke up on Christmas day wanting to give back and help the poor, just the opposite of how he felt at the beginning of the story. When the portly man first visited him at his office asking for donations, he denied him any money and sent him away. At the end of the story, he sees the portly man again and gives him more than enough money. For example, Scrooge says, “A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow! Than I have given you for many a year. I’ll raise your salary and endeavor to assist your struggling family and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon over a bowl of smoking bishop.” (Horovitz pg. 804) Scrooge’s transformation taught him how good it feels to take on the responsibility of helping others who cannot help themselves.

In conclusion, it is our responsibility to help others in need so that our world is a better place to live for all. Helping others is a responsibility that serves our better nature. President Barack Obama said, “Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.”

Hailey McCutchan
Second Place, Grade 7

Responsibility is being reliable and following through on commitments, according to the Smyrna School District’s Community Core Values. However, in a video viewed in our classroom, a Vietnam veteran Richard Pimental, defined responsibility is defined as two words -- response, and ability. Therefore, responsibility is what your ability is, and what your response is

to that situation. In my mind, the real meaning of responsibility is when someone is accountable for their own power, actions and words, and uses it to help others.

Many people in our world and community worry so much about just surviving, they would give up anything to have life a little easier. It is important to help the less fortunate, as everyone deserves to live happily and share their purpose in life, but due to unfortunate circumstances, they cannot live happily at that time. It is the community and the individual's responsibility to help. The individual and community can help the less fortunate by donating unneeded clothes, shoes, or food, find shelter homes, or assisting in finding jobs. These tasks are all within our ability, so what should our response be?

Personally, I can say the community has a huge impact on my family by showing responsibility. My family struggled with getting food. The community, schools, and neighbors donated and helped us afford to buy grocery for my family. My family was so grateful for their good deed. They had the ability to help, and they responded to our need. This act of kindness, and example of responsibility is similar to a text that was read in class, entitled *A Christmas Carol*, by Israel Horovitz (based on Charles Dickens). There are many examples of responsibility from the drama, indicated by Scrooge's actions. In the beginning, he had the ability to help the poor, but he didn't. However, through a character transformation, he learned the true meaning of responsibility and started using his ability to help the less fortunate. He used his ability by completing 6 acts of kindness, such as donating money to the less fortunate, and giving his employee, Bob Cratchit, a raise and promising to assist his disabled son. Once he started, he couldn't stop. As Marley stated, "An act of kindness is like the first green grape of summer: one leads to another and another and another. It would take a queer man indeed to not follow an act of kindness with an act of kindness....the taste of kindness is too sweet." (Horovitz, pg. 801). Scrooge showed responsibility because he had the ability to help, he realized what his ability could do to help others, and he responded. Therefore, be like Scrooge. As the author stated, "Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all an infinitely more." (Horovitz, pg. 805). Take your **ability to respond**, be accountable, and use your words and actions to make a difference in the world.

Nyeisha Wallace
Third Place, Grade 7

In the wise words of Helen Keller, "Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained." Imagine a world where people did not take action against injustice because they felt it did not apply to them. Imagine a world where people remained deaf to the cry of their neighbors. A world like that would be a world full of hatred and hostility. This is what makes it so imperative that we as a people, intercede on the behalf of our fellow people whenever we witness oppression and unlawfulness take place. It is a bystander's responsibility to act out against injustice towards those who are unable to defend themselves. Miep Gies and Irena Sendler are both courageous women who took on the responsibility of defending victims of prejudice, who were being denied their basic human rights.

Miep Gies was a brave and compassionate soul who understood how important it was for neighbors to take a stand against discrimination. During one of the darkest times in history, when unspeakable wrongs and inhumane deeds were being done to practitioners of the Jewish religion, Miep Gies aided eight Jewish individuals in hiding from Nazis, at the risk of her own life. According to the article, “For two years Miep Gies and her husband risked their lives to smuggle in food, provisions, and news from the outside.” The text goes on to state, in Miep’s own words, “It seemed perfectly natural to me. I could help these people. They were powerless, they didn’t know where to turn.” Miep’s selfless character is shown as she risks her life to aid her friends. This act of humanitarianism displays the responsibility Miep showed by rising to the occasion and helping the defenseless. She is a primary example of a bystander who took action against oppression.

Irena Sendler was a Polish Catholic who just like Miep Gies, understood her responsibility as a bystander, to stand up for the innocent. Irena was valiant in her efforts to smuggle Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto. In the text it states, “It is believed that she helped 2,500 Jewish children escape from the Warsaw ghetto.” By being courageous, Irena Sendler saved the lives of more than 2,000 children who might have otherwise been killed. Irena took on the responsibility of protecting these children even after she was captured and tortured by Nazis. Irena Sendler is another powerful example of a bystander who knew her responsibility to fight against injustice for those who could not fight for themselves.

It is a bystander’s obligation to confront maltreatment and abuse. If the greater population remained indifferent to the affliction of the innocent and vulnerable, the world would be void of good. This would give evildoers leeway to continue their wrongful deeds. Being courageous is not easy by any means; it is extremely difficult. However, watching others suffer is even more difficult. The battle to end injustice is one we should all be fighting. In order to combat injustice, we should all take a page from the book of Martin Luther King Jr. who famously said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Blessing Nyameke
First Place, Grade 8

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.” These words were spoken by Albert Einstein. What is the significance of these words? The victims are but lambs to the slaughter in a world where bystanders walk away. It is a bystander’s responsibility to assist a victim in need if the act is unjust. During the Holocaust, many bystanders saved thousands of lives. Two examples of people who took the responsibility for those who experienced injustice during the Holocaust are Frank Foley and Miep Gies.

One bystander who helped Holocaust victims is Frank Foley. During his time, he stamped passports that allowed Jews into Britain or Palestine. According to the Article on Bystanders in the Holocaust, it reads “...Issue visas and stamped passports that allowed Jews to escape into Britain or Palestine. He was called the “Scarlet Pimpernel” as he risked his own life to ensure the safety of others.” This quote makes it evident that as a bystander, Frank wanted to help and protect

people subjected to the unjust acts of the Nazis. Frank Foley is an example of how a single person can help an innocent victim.

Another person who helped victims of the Holocaust is Miep Gies. Back in Amsterdam, Miep chose to help the Frank and Vandaan family go into hiding when the Nazis invaded their country. According to “Anne Frank’s Diary” Miep took the responsibility of providing food, money, and upholding secrecy for the families. The Frank and Vandaan family were able to stay hidden and protected for two years thanks to the help of Miep. This shows that a person doesn’t need to take the responsibility of hundreds, a family in need is all it takes for a bystander to assist them.

To conclude, Frank Foles and Miep Gies were bystanders who took responsibility of victims of the Holocaust. Through these brave acts, they were able to protect and save innocent people. It is a bystander’s responsibility to ensure the lives of those who are in danger. Now, with this being said, it is up to you to stand up for that innocent life.

Adilia Colon
Second Place, Grade 8

Everyone lives their own life. You go out places every day, seeing people walk around you. Have you ever thought about someone else's life and how different it is from yours? They go to their own homes, have their own jobs, and have their own relationships with different people. Some kind people think about other people’s lives. Some have helped, some have stayed silent. During the Holocaust, there were also some kind souls out there that have helped people survive, including Miep, Irena Sendler, and Marion Pritchard.

In Anne Frank’s story, there is a lady named Miep. She helped the Franks, along with the Van Daans, throughout the Holocaust, providing them with goods. For example, she has provided Mr. Van Daan with cigarettes and brought a huge sugar cake to the Franks house when they were in hiding. This had brought good to the Franks and Van Daans, but also puts Miep in great danger. She could be arrested for helping them. As she knew this, she still helped them as best as she could throughout the Holocaust.

On February 15, 1910, Irena Sendler was born. She was a Polish Catholic that witnessed the Holocaust. She was the head of the children’s section of Zegota and worked as a social worker. She has helped during the holocaust a lot by saving Jewish children from ghettos and provided false documents to children. For example, she helped out 2,500 Jewish children escape from the Warsaw Ghetto. Irena was a huge help because she has saved many people's lives during the Holocaust.

Marion Pritchard was born on November 7, 1920. She witness the chaos around her as the Jewish were being pushed and slammed into carts. Marion, similar to Irena Sendler, helped many Jewish kids. For example, she would register them as her own children and find homes that would hide them. She would also take on the dangerous job of delivering packages. She made a huge impact on the Holocaust because of the amount of lives she saved and how many people she has helped.

In conclusion, everyone listed here have impacted the Holocaust greatly. They had very kind souls and were thoughtful for others, no matter what the catch was. This ties into real life. Thinking about and showing respect towards others can impact their life, and yours too. Some people don't see the good in that, but people like Marion, Irena, and Miep show what good it does. Respect plays a big part in everyone's life at some point. It is better to realize and act on it now than later in life when you really need to.

Max Ericksen
Third Place, Grade 8



Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

The greatest gift of life is friendship, and one should be open to receive that gift. Though the world possesses so many wonders, friendship is one of the most beautiful. No matter what one's race, gender, or features, friendship can defy all odds and stereotypes. Though friendship is a gift, it is also a responsibility. Humans have learned through thousands of years of trial and error that responsibility is the key to a successful and balanced friendship. Responsibility means a duty to deal with something. Recently, I read, *Of Mice and Men*. This is a novel about two migrant workers who truly knew the importance of friendship and how to execute it effectively. I found one of the main characters, George, to be a very great role model for friendship. George upholds the responsibilities that a good friend would in the novel *Of Mice and Men*.

Friendship, as stated in the introduction, is a wonderful bond and a one of a kind feeling. True friendship cannot be achieved without the responsibilities a friend must model and uphold. There are five main responsibilities a person must uphold to achieve a friendship's full potential. They include sacrifice, trustworthiness, forgiveness, appreciation, and most importantly, unconditional love. This is a list I created from personal experiences and background knowledge. All of my life, I have experienced the joy of friendship as well as the emotional roller coaster that comes with friendship.

While I have experienced the greatest joy from friendships, I have also experienced rare sorrow from it as well. Those sorrowful moments arose from the relationship of friends who did not fulfill the responsibilities. This goes to show that these rules have a purpose and should be followed. One personal example of a responsible friend is the way I act towards my closest friends today as I sacrifice my needs to always put theirs first. This is not always easy, but when one truly cares for someone, one would give that person everything and more.

An example of a relationship involving an irresponsible friend took place in middle school. I loved this friend to death like a sister, but we lacked trust, which ultimately made us grow apart and end the friendship. The above example shows the beauty of friendship with responsibility but also how quickly friendship can go astray when one lacks responsibility. Overall, friendship can be life's greatest joy when one steps up and meets the responsibilities. The greatest downfall is when we do not.

In the novel, *Of Mice and Men*, George models responsibility adequately. The first example is when the book begins and they are sitting by the river. While George is there, he demonstrates a sacrifice of his needs to meet Lennie's needs. These men are truly the best of friends, and they have been traveling together since Lennie's Aunt Clara died. They have such a close relationship because they execute the five essential responsibilities of friendship. One of these responsibilities is sacrifice. George demonstrates this when he states, "I could get along so easy, so nice if I didn't have you. Maybe even have a girl," (Steinbeck, 16). With that quote, George states all luxuries he could have if he did not have the burden of Lennie. By saying this, he shows that he is willing to sacrifice many important things to make the friendship equal and loving, even with the importance of the things he is losing. In conclusion, to make a friendship work, one must sacrifice important things to prove loyalty and love.

Secondly, in the novel, *Of Mice and Men*, George demonstrates the responsibility of a friend when they are discussing what happened in the town of Weed. In this scenario, George demonstrates trust while discussing what happened in Weed. Lennie pet a woman's dress. From the people's perspective, this was seen as rape. Lennie had mental health issues and just sees the

world differently. After this incident, many men wanted him dead. George helped him escape. He demonstrated trust by then keeping the secret and by saying, “Remember about Weed, we’re not gonna say a word,” (Steinbeck, 15). This example shows that George cared about Lennie’s well-being. This also shows that he will go the distance to keep his secrets and protect George even when he is putting himself at risk by doing so. Trust is essential in a friendship. Trust is the defining factor between a friend and an acquaintance. One must possess trust to truly achieve a healthy friendship.

Throughout this essay, we have discussed the importance of responsibility in friendship, and how George from *Of Mice and Men* really demonstrates these traits. George demonstrated the five main responsibilities of friendship. He showed sacrifice of important items to satisfy Lennie’s needs. He showed trust when he kept Lennie’s secret about Weed to protect him. This resulted in unconditional love, and the real actualization of perfect friendship. Now that I have stated the do’s and don’ts of a perfect friendship, the real question I leave you with is, “Are your friendships going to last?”

Emma VanOrden
First Place, Grade 9

The definition of responsibility is the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone. Throughout the book *Of Mice and Men*, George Milton showed these characteristics multiple times. He’s a caregiver to Lennie when’s it’s been noticed that he’s not fully competent to be on his own. He’s protected him from others who despise him, and most importantly, he kept him out of trouble. When Lennie was young, his Aunt Clara passed away. George promised that he would look after him. From that point on, Lennie was George’s responsibility and he upheld his promise. A responsibility of a friend is to be there for you when you really need them. A friend that knows they have the ability to protect will keep you away from danger as much as they can. Those are the actions that make a person a responsible friend. As I argue my statement in the next few paragraphs, you’ll agree that George fits the description of a responsible friend.

George shows responsibility of a friend by making sure that Lennie remembers to stay out of trouble and not to bring things up from the past. The reason being that Lennie tends to forget things very easily and panics when he doesn’t know what to do. For instance, George reminds Lennie not to say anything when they got to the ranch about anything prior to them going, telling him “ You say that over two, three times so you won’t forget it” (Steinbeck 6). He knew that if he didn’t remind him now, he would let it slip eventually on his own. He also knows that other workers will get very suspicious of him and view him as the enemy. George doesn’t want anyone to hurt him. But it’s more than about his safety. During this time, the world was facing the Great Depression. At this time, work and money were scarce and would probably stay scarce for a little bit longer. This job at the ranch might have been George and Lennie’s last attempt to make ends meet. So in light of this, George was also trying to save the opportunity for Lennie to find work. Lennie’s mental state might not have allowed him to survive for much longer. George might have sounded harsh, but at no point did Lennie bring it up. That’s one responsibility that George maintained that helped Lennie a lot.

Another way George shows responsibility regarding his friendship with Lennie is when Curley tries to pick on him and he steps in to help. The workers previously told George that Curley doesn't like men who are visibly stronger than he is. With Lennie looking the part, George told Lennie to fight back if he felt cornered and even to do it for him to save him the trouble. For instance, George said "You try to keep away from him, will you? Don't never speak to him. If he comes in here, you move clear to the other side of the room" (Steinbeck 29). George warned him not to fight with Curley at any point. He knows that Lennie could seriously hurt Curley if he kept pushing him. George knows that people who are intimidated by another person play mind games to get inside their heads. Lennie doesn't get the concept of tolerance, so George has to explain to him that he's a threat. That for them to continue to do their jobs, he has to ignore him. One major characteristic of a friend is to make sure you keep your cool when they know your weakness.

Some could argue that George is a horrible friend. That he's too harsh with handling Lennie at times. Especially since George ended up being his executioner at the end. They would say that he was cold-hearted. But they would leave out that George didn't kill Lennie out of hate; he killed him to save him. As a crazy as that sounds, it's true. After Lennie accidentally kills Curley's wife, there was bounty placed on him. George knew the others wouldn't understand and would not show him mercy. That's why he sent them on the wrong path. It was his responsibility to spare him a gruesome death. One of George's final words to Lennie were "I ain't mad. I never been mad, and I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know" (Steinbeck 106). Before shooting Lennie, that was the one thing he made sure he knew. Throughout the entire story, it felt that Lennie always thought that he was mad at him. Even with the fight with Curley and even him harboring animals. George wanted to let him down easily. That's one responsibility that not every friend can handle, to kill a friend to spare him more pain. To put them out of their misery to save them in the long run. It was a tough pill to swallow, but it was the only thing that he could do for Lennie.

To conclude, George is a responsible friend. Throughout my essay, I gave you more than one reason why George shows responsibility. He saves Lennie from getting in trouble, saved him from a horrible death, and made sure that he remembers everything that's important. What else could you ask for out of a friend? George isn't perfect but throughout the story, he starts to realize that being responsible for Lennie wasn't the worst thing in the world. In fact there was a part of him that wishes he still could. If you want to know what a good friend is, this essay will guide you in the right direction. If they show these signs, keep them close, because that friend is one of a kind.

Jaliyah Williams
Second Place, Grade 9

In the Smyrna School District mission, they want "to ensure that students of the community are prepared as effectively and as efficiently as possible to become responsible and productive citizens..." Responsibility is a lesson children learn at an early age. Either it is cleaning up after yourself or waking up in time for school; responsibility plays a big part in our lives and helps us become better people. Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. Servicing others and self-control are common demonstrations of responsibility,

especially the responsibilities of a friend. In ninth grade at the Smyrna High School, students have read a book called *Of Mice and Men*. It's about how Lennie, a tall and strong male with a mental disability, travels with his friend and caretaker who is a small and defined man named George. They work at a farm at Soledad during the Great Depression to get enough money for their dream land, and they face many challenges with the workers. The character of George in *Of Mice and Men* demonstrates the responsibilities of a friend, like making a friend feel better, protecting a friend, and doing what's best for a friend.

Whenever someone is upset or frustrated, it's always a friend who is there to make that person smile and to make them feel better than they do. Within *Of Mice and Men*, it shows a friend's responsibility to make another friend feeling happier than before. In the book, George travels with Lennie, so he knows that Lennie likes to feel very soft objects. Lennie kept bringing mice to pet in his pocket, but he later accidentally kills them with his strength. He also got in trouble in Weed because he liked the feeling of a girl's dress, but was mistakenly accused of assault. When Lennie and George get to the farm in Soledad, Slim tells them that his dog is having pups, so George asks Slim to save a puppy for Lennie because he knows that he would love it. In *Of Mice and Men*, it states, "She slang her pups last night," said Slim. "Nine of 'em'... Lennie was watching George excitedly. George rumbled his cards into a messy pile. 'Yeah!' George said, 'I heard him, Lennie. I'll ask him.' 'A brown and white one,' Lennie cried excitedly. 'Come on. Let's get dinner. I don't know whether he got a brown and white one.'" (Steinbeck 36). This shows that George knew that Lennie was thinking about the pup and got it for him, so he would feel happy. With Lennie having the puppy, he can pet it and play with it without it dying so easily, like the mice. George was being a great friend by doing his responsibility of making Lennie feel better.

A big responsibility that a friend has is to protect and defend their friend whenever they are in a danger or in a dangerous situation. In *Of Mice and Men*, it demonstrates numerous times of this responsibility throughout the book. In the book, George and Lennie meet Curley who doesn't like tall men like Lennie, because Curley is short and doesn't want to be considered weak for his height. Later on, Lennie laughs at Candy's remark about Curley's glove full of Vaseline, and Curley got angry. This caused Curley, a very handy person, to start a fight with Lennie, who was startled and frightened. That's when George commands Lennie to fight back. In *Of Mice and Men*, it states that George, "cupped his hands around his mouth and yelled, 'Get 'im, Lennie!'..." George yelled again, 'I said get him.' Curley's fist was swinging when Lennie reached for it. The next minute Curley was flopping like a fish on a line, and his closed fist was lost in Lennie's big hand" (Steinbeck 63). This shows that this was George's responsibility as a friend to help protect Lennie by shouting at him to fight back, so Lennie can prevent from getting beaten up more than what he already was.

Anyone who loves their friend would do what's best for a friend no matter what. George demonstrates this responsibility when he makes a very hard and safer decision for his friend, Lennie. At the end of the book, Lennie accidentally kills Curley's wife, so he runs off into the brush. Later after, Curley finds out that Lennie killed her and he tells Slim, "'He--would of went south,'... 'We come from north so he would of went south'" (Steinbeck 97). Afterwards, George finds Lennie in the woods before Curley does, and he talked about the future land they wanted to get if they had the money and about the rabbits on that land that he would of let Lennie tend to make Lennie happy. At the end, George shoots him with Carlson's Luger because he didn't want Lennie to be found by Curley and to suffer from him. The book states, "All right, you guys," he

said... 'When you see 'um, don't give 'im no chance. Shoot for his guts. That'll double 'im over.'... Lennie begged, 'Le's do it now. Le's get that place now.'... And George raised the gun and steadied it, and he brought the muzzle of it close to the back of Lennie's head. The hand shook violently, but his face set and his hand steadied. He pulled the trigger." (Steinbeck 97, 106). This shows that Curley wanted keep Lennie alive on the first shot so he'd suffer, but George shot Lennie instead so he wouldn't .George wanted to do what was best for Lennie as a final responsibility for him as Lennie's friend.

In *Of Mice and Men*, there was a lot of scenes in which it showed a friend's responsibility of making a friend feel better, protecting a friend, and doing what's best for a friend. These are all the common responsibilities that all friends should have to another friend. When a friend follows their responsibilities of having a friend, it shows that they have made commitments into a friendship, and that they are reliable to their friends. Friends who make these responsibilities are those that someone counts the most on. Everyone has responsibilities, it can be as small as cleaning after yourself or as big as protecting others from danger, but these responsibilities help to define how loyal and hardworking someone is and it expressed someone's personality in a positive way.

Christopher Richichi-Leon
Third Place, Grade 9

Compassion is one of the qualities humans are taught at a young age. People who have this quality are constantly working towards a bigger problem in the world or community that will benefit everyone. But some people are not aware of the bigger problems in life. World literature helps keeps students aware of global issues. Also, knowing these about these issues helps students care about these problems. Thus, reading world literature guides students to make the right choices that benefit the community and world around them.

Awareness is the learning and comprehending real world problems that happen today. Citizens of today's society are uninformed about global responsibility and proceed to only care about themselves. In an article called, "Responsible Global Citizenship," it states, "To live without a sense of global responsibility is to turn away from the suffering of others and to waste many precious gifts we could give to the world and receive from it."(Responsible Global Citizenship). Reading world literature helps students submerge themselves in a new culture and gain information about the bigger picture. Knowing these problems is the first step to demonstrating global responsibility.

When reading about the problems of the world it helps the students develop a sense of care for society. Students don't realize how good they have it until they read about these things happening all around the world. For example, reading articles and stories about child marriage forced students to realize how lucky they are and made them want to end this practice. When students feel this sense of care it gives them the urge to actually do something about it, for once. After students have acquired a sense of care, then need to take action.

Once students are aware and have a sense of care they are ready for the next step: taking action. Taking action to benefit a community or the world gives people purpose in life. According to an article on “Responsible Global Citizenship,” global citizens, “feel better than most of [the] less-conscious, less-considered, less-caring.” Reading world literature gives students the direction of action needed in order to benefit the world.

Reading world literature helps inform students about more extreme conflicts that exist outside of their lives. When they know what is actually going on around them, it creates a sense of care and an urge to take action. When these three steps are completed, people can then be considered as a global citizen who thinks of problems that are beyond themselves.

Jeremy Netsch
First Place, Grade 10

Being a responsible global citizen is more than just acting mature or being an adult. To be a responsible global citizen one must be sensitive, aware, and willing to take action. However, people need to learn about being a responsible global citizen, and reading world literature can help with that. Reading world literature helps students become responsible global citizens because they learn about real life problems and they become sensitive to global issues.

A big part of being a responsible global citizen is to know what’s going on in the world. It requires people to be aware of real life problems and to know what’s going on. In world literature, students learn about femininity and masculinity and how gender-based judgements has negative impacts on people of all cultures. Because of the high standard that men and women are held at, they are harshly criticized if they don’t act, look, or do certain things. This all causes a lack of confidence in men and women leading to high rates of depression and suicide. Nevertheless, responsible global citizens can help. Being aware of these issues will give students a better understanding of how to stop this problem and other similar issues in the world.

Another part to being a responsible global citizen is being sensitive and understanding towards certain world issues. For example, the practice of child abandonment is an issue that happens all over the world. In many places, a parent can leave a baby 48 hours old at a police station, fire station, or “baby boxes” for them to take in and get them what they need. In some cases, this may be necessary if the parent is unable to provide for the child and believes it will be better off somewhere else. However, they can often be left in boxes on the side of the road or in dumpsters where they will most likely die and if caught the parent can receive murder charges. It is very unsettling to talk about this topic and it is very sad that this happens. However, it may be necessary at certain times, if done ethically. In a situation where the baby is in possible danger or will not be able to survive with their parent then it would be understandable if the baby was left at a fire or police station where they will get it the care it requires. While this is a sensitive topic to discuss, it must be accepted in certain circumstances. A responsible global citizen understands how this dilemma is one that affects all cultures and unites people as humans.

These are both real life problems that can be learned about through world literature and can make you a responsible global citizen. Learning about these things through world literature can help with that because it teaches students how to be more aware and sensitive, making them responsible global citizens. Many other world issues can be learned through world literature to give students a better understanding of our world which makes you more responsible.

Ashley Burnett
Second Place, Grade 10

World literature is important to the understanding of the world. To become a responsible global citizen it is fundamental to invest some time into reading world literature. There are three major reasons why world literature is linked to being a responsible global citizen. World literature makes students responsible global citizens by increasing awareness, sensitivity, and compassionate action.

Firstly, world literature increases awareness. World literature helps raise awareness to issues such child marriage. With this, students become much more aware of the problems not always seen in their everyday lives. Awareness also directly correlates with sensitivity and compassionate action.

Sensitivity is raised by the sharing of personal stories from other cultures. For instance, a book written from the eyes of a Middle Eastern girl raises the sensitivity of a western citizen by letting them sympathize with the inequality experienced by the Middle Eastern girl. Had someone never read the book, they may have never had any knowledge of the inequality of women in the Middle East. This is why it is important to have students read and allow them to empathize with the stories and experiences of people from around the world.

Finally, being a global citizen requires compassionate action. Compassionate action is when people are aware of a problem and help in some way to fix it. For instance, when a student reads of child marriage in India they may join an organization to help raise awareness and help prevent it. Students may also just recognize the problem and use small contributions to help the cause. Even the smallest actions such as talking about these global issues can have a major effect on others by raising other people's awareness. Ultimately, these reasons are why world literature is important.

World literature is an important tool in the education of students. By reading world literature, society raises a generation of socially aware young adults. Because reading world literature creates awareness, sensitivity, and compassionate action, readers improve new generations to become the responsible global citizens that the world needs.

Timothy Stout
Third Place, Grade 10

Responsibility is when you recognize that the outcome of your life is the product of your decisions. Raquel Villarreal builds her argument using enumeration, rhetorical question and ethos.

Villarreal uses enumeration by stating all of the different reasons she is talking about in a bolded term, making some sort of list of main ideas. For example, she states “Two Different Philosophies on How Our Lives Are Shaped” (Why personal responsibility is important for life success). By using enumeration, she helps build her argument because it is easy to find key details. She uses her list in four different occurrences, and allows the reader to easily pull out her key arguments. This is important when building an argument because you need the reader to easily identify what you are trying to argue and why your reasons are right. Villarreal uses enumeration because she will easily be able to persuade the readers in on her argument.

The author uses many different types of rhetorical questions to help grab the reader's attention and think about what she is asking. She does this by asking “Chance vs. Choice: What is your personal Philosophy?” (Villarreal). She uses rhetorical questions to help build her argument on why responsibility by asking the reader a question that they have to think about to answer. Rhetorical question is a major key in building her argument because the reader will pause to answer her question, and their answer will most likely cause them to keep reading. By using rhetorical questions to make the reader stop and think, she is easily able to pull the readers in on her reasons and make them agree with her argument.

The final way Villarreal builds her argument is by using ethos. She uses ethos by stating “Sociology professors Catherine E. Ross and John Mirowsky” (Villarreal). This is a major detail in the way she builds her argument because by stating they are Sociology Professors, Villarreal is gaining her credibility. Credibility is a major key in building an argument because if you don't have credibility, your argument cannot be strong. By having a credible source of information within her article, the author could easier persuade the readers. This is why she uses ethos to better build her argument and make her argument sound better to the reader.

Responsibility is important in everyday life, and Raquel Villarreal proves this to us by using strong devices. These devices were enumeration, rhetorical question, and ethos. By using these devices she was able to build a strong argument on why responsibility is important.

Logan Strauss
First Place, Grade 11

When it comes to building an argument, there are various elements that help make an effective rhetoric essay. The way these elements are used may differ based on the writer but nonetheless they are the same key components that contribute to argumentative writing: the use of evidence, the development of ideas, pathos, ethos, and style. In the case of Raquel Villarreal's essay, “Why Personal Responsibility Is Important for Life Success”, she builds a persuasive argument through credible statements to further develop her ideas and through her word choice with a second-person point of view to appeal to pathos.

For starters, Villarreal combines ethos and logos through the use of credible statements that support the connections she makes. This can be seen when she ties parallels between advancing technology and the responsibility that we as users have to demonstrate. She quotes a source from an article on law that discusses company mission statements such as how Google and Facebook are for answering questions and connecting people. She then uses this statement as a footstep into her own argument on how these missions lead to the necessity for people to accept responsibility so as to avoid identity theft or fraud. The use of this method to develop her argument is effective because rather than her simply stating her own opinion, she is using other sources to build onto her own argument on responsibility. Therefore, she provides a more ethos and logos based essay because readers have additional sources that Villarreal connects to her own views for a more evidence-based argument, instead of an argument filled solely with the author's opinion and no evidence to back it up.

Furthermore, Villarreal builds her argument with an appeal to pathos through her word-choice and the emotional appeal it makes to the reader. After having stated one of her main points, she follows it up with an explanation in different, more emotionally appealing terms. In the third paragraph, she states "You can choose to be the creator of your own destiny...Or you can choose to be the victim of your world, blaming, complaining and finding excuses..." (Villarreal). This helps to build her argument because of the powerful connotation behind words like "destiny" and "victim". These words are attention-grabbers that can stir emotion in readers, especially in combination with her second-person point of view style that puts the reader directly in the image she is creating. Thus, by connecting the reader with the image she creates through the use of strong connotation, Villarreal further develops her argument by appealing to the pathos side of the reader in connection to her main points.

In conclusion, Villarreal builds a strong rhetoric essay on the importance of personal responsibility by connecting credible statements to her own ideas and by her appeal to emotion through powerful word-choice. She quotes statements from other sources, develops her own ideas, and makes strong emotional appeals. Using all of these in combination helps Villarreal to build an effective rhetoric argument that uses the three appeals- ethos, logos, and pathos- in various ways that are essential to the essay's structure and persuasiveness.

Sarah Larose
Second Place, Grade 11

"Why Personal Responsibility Is Important for Life Success" is an article written by Raquel Villarreal. This article describes the role personal responsibility has on one's success. She discusses how responsibility can shape lives. Raquel Villarreal builds an argument to persuade her audience that responsibility is the key to success by using testimonials, rhetorical questions, and fear.

Initially, Villarreal uses a testimonial in the beginning of her article to persuade readers that responsibility is the key to success. Testimonials are made by endorsers or experts. Usually, this is by someone trusted. Sociology professors Catherine E. Ross and John Mirowsky state, "attribute the events and conditions of their lives to their own actions, while others believe their lives are shaped by forces external to themselves, like luck, chance, fate or powerful others"

(Villarreal 1). Generally, people trust experts, which is why the author uses testimonials as a form of ethos. This convinced readers that responsibility is key, even experts say so. By using this, readers will be more convinced and agree with Villarreal.

Raquel Villarreal also uses rhetorical questions to persuade her readers how important responsibility is. Rhetorical questions are questions that have an obvious or implied answer. Villarreal asks, “Who are you, and more importantly, who do you want to be?” (Villarreal 1). This question simplified the concept and makes it seem like there’s only one logical solution. Here, the author proves that in order to be successful, one must be responsible and that’s the only solution. This allows readers to grasp the concept and persuade them to agree, which is why Villarreal uses this as a form of logos. Rhetorical questions add to the techniques used by the author to convince the readers.

Finally, Villarreal uses fear in order to further persuade her readers. Fear scares the audience into taking her advice. In contrast to having personal responsibility, Villarreal says, “Or you can choose to be the victim of your world, blaming, complaining and finding excuses for your choices when prompted with a stimulus from your environment” (Villarreal 1). Showing readers the opposite of what she’s advising will show them that they should take her advice. If readers take her advice, they will be successful. If not, one may not achieve their goals nor accept responsibility. Fear is an effective form of pathos in this article. Overall, Villarreal uses fear to scare her readers into believing and taking her advice.

Raquel Villarreal uses testimonials, rhetorical questions, and fear to convince readers that responsibility is important for like success. Raquel Villarreal’s argument was very convincing as she effectively used persuasive techniques to support her claim.

Olivia Reynolds
Third Place, Grade 11

A person who is never taught the importance of responsibility will only learn to fail. To regurgitate the dictionary definition of responsibility is simply redundant. Anyone of school age could easily tell one what responsibility is. However, few know how to practice the core value of responsibility. At Smyrna High School, the importance of responsibility is taught to any student willing to listen. Throughout my time at Smyrna High School, through both lecture and application, I have learned the true value of responsibility. With this deeper understanding, I am better equipped for adulthood and the challenges it may present.

Learning the importance of a core value may not always be through direct instruction. At Smyrna High School, responsibility is demonstrated through the hard work of nearly every teacher and administrator in the building. Often times, their dedication goes unnoticed. However, their behaviors are absorbed in the subconscious mind of every student who pays attention to their actions as they then replicate the same responsible behavior. As I have progressed through high school, I have learned the importance of time management, a skill with direct correlation to responsibility. The firm position most teachers assume when it comes to late work further emphasizes the importance of completing work within a deadline. As I have progressed through my academic career, my time management had improved drastically due to these expectations.

The importance of attendance is depicted in the letters many students receive after missing multiple days, and the results that dedication can deliver are exemplified in the hard work of every student, such as myself, within the National Honors Society.

As students graduate from high school and become operant members of our community, the true importance of responsibility is unveiled. Responsibility will be the guiding force that transforms us into functioning adults. The time management skills that many of us have learned will lead to proficiency in the workplace and academic success in higher education. The emphasis placed on promptness and attendance will ensure that Smyrna High alumni will be the first ones to greet their boss or professor at the beginning of a workday or the start of class. As graduates of Smyrna High School progress further into adulthood, we will all begin to emulate the same responsible attitude of our teachers and administrators.

The implications of being a responsible individual are far broader than one may imagine. The value of responsibility has a direct consortium to successful careers and philanthropy. Some of the world's most brilliant minds and most successful magnates attribute their massive success to their adherence to responsibility. Through the same adherence to responsibility, we too can become the world's next generation of brilliance and success.

Paolo Pesce
First Place, Grade 12

It is incredible to think that in a few months, I'll be walking down the Smyrna High School football field, in my cap and gown, reminiscing about my time here at this wonderful campus. Making new friends and memories were the highlight of high school; however, most students fail to realize that this time prepares one for adulthood. Freshman year, I entered the school hungry and eager to face the challenges that would approach me. As years passed, I learned from those challenges and applied it to my education, work, and everyday life. Throughout my four years in high school, I've learned a handful of responsibilities that will help me in all aspects of my future life.

One of the hardest challenges I faced during my time at Smyrna High School is time itself. Procrastination was something I was very fond of. I failed to understand how and why I should plan accordingly for each of my classes until sophomore year. Once the year began, I was the busiest I've ever been, juggling my time between work, athletics, social life, and school. Projects, essays and homework all due on the same day resulted in staying awake until the earliest of hours. However, this soon stopped because I began to accept and adjust to my heavy workload. Using a planner really helped me manage my time and stay ahead of due dates. I've continued to record homework and important dates in each of my high school years. Managing my time helped me to be a responsible adult because it is an important skill that I can apply within my everyday life.

Another great step that I took closer to adulthood within high school is driving. After passing the driving test and waiting six months, I felt like I had a lot more freedom and independence. Finally receiving my license fed my desire to live without relying on parental guidance. Driving opened up pathways to other responsibilities like keeping passengers safe, following the rules of

the road, and taking care of the car. These responsibilities will follow me into my adulthood because, most likely, I will own a car throughout my entire lifetime. Driving is also an important bridge to expand another responsibility: social life.

Social life is an important aspect of every high school student's experience through young adulthood. Choosing who to become friends with can influence how one acts. This is a responsibility because it is an important decision to bond with people whom I consider acceptable. This responsibility affects my adulthood because the decisions that I make now could change the way I am as an adult.

Altogether, I learned many important responsibilities through my four years of high school that will help guide me through everyday life as an adult. This is important because many young adults fail to realize the importance of these years. In the four years of high school, a student will learn many skills that prepare on for adulthood. Understanding and learning from the challenges of high school will apply to an adult's everyday life.

Joshua Sarkissian
Second Place, Grade 12

Out of all of the Smyrna School District's Core Values that were taught to me growing up, responsibility seemed to be one that I didn't tend to focus on. I never had a problem with school when I was younger: I did my homework before the teacher checked, I participated when I wanted, and I never had to study for any tests or quizzes. I earned A's without working for them. This was the case for me up until my sophomore year. In my sophomore year, I stepped out of my comfort zone and pushed myself to take the honors and advanced courses. This was a different and difficult experience for me, but it taught me about time management and how to stay organized with the responsibilities I have.

When I was younger, the only responsibilities I had to keep up with was doing my single sheet of homework and going to bed on time. My school work was never organized, and I didn't really take it seriously. The intermediate school was the same as elementary school, responsibility-wise, except for there being two classrooms we have to switch between. Smyrna Middle School increased my responsibilities slightly due to there being four classes alternating every other day. I kept up with these responsibilities by developing an organization system with folders and binders that suited my schedule. Eighth grade not only gave me an insight on how to organize tasks and resources for my different classes, but it also gave me a bit of insight as to what the high school classes would be like.

However, getting through high school was a completely different experience than the eighth grade. My responsibility has grown tremendously from then to now, and the big shift was shown in my sophomore year. During my sophomore year was when I started to receive more homework than what I was used to, and it was also the year when my responsibilities at home increased. At the end of my sophomore year, I decided to go even further and take an advanced placement class in my junior year along with the other honors classes I signed up for. And it was in my junior year that I decided take a step toward my responsibilities by buying an agenda to help organize my workload. Using the folder system that I learned in middle school and the new

agenda made taking notes, doing homework, and studying for tests much easier than before I had them.

My senior year is where I have seen the most change in my responsibilities. I manage two jobs, family obligations, and my school work, all of which I would not have been able to do without learning how to organize my school work and my life. I took the skills I learned, like learning how to use folders in my own way and using an agenda to plan out my work, and applied that to my life outside of school.

Courtney Spader
Third Place, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTION

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Derek Lewis	Kindergarten
Tripp Simmens	Kindergarten
Paisley Cobb	Kindergarten
Aurora Gray	Kindergarten
Giuliana Combs	Kindergarten
Josiah Otteni	Kindergarten

Emerson Moore	Grade 1
Chance Dougherty	Grade 1
Kadia Konneh	Grade 1
Kamryn Roebuck	Grade 1
Maniyah Cameron	Grade 1

Trenton Whitby	Grade 2
Layla Vilone	Grade 2
Kaydence Bartsch	Grade 2
Waylon Bedford	Grade 2
Aaron Kirby	Grade 2

Ryleigh Sheehan	Grade 3
Andrew Sharrar	Grade 3
Rowan Watras	Grade 3
Octavia Jeter	Grade 3
Ella Waterland	Grade 3

Isabella Czechowski	Grade 4
Gabrianna Lehnert	Grade 4
Jaleigh Tymes	Grade 4
Kiley Adams	Grade 4
Onna Crowley	Grade 4

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Savannah Holt	Kindergarten
Spencer Younker	Kindergarten
Felix Hoffecker	Kindergarten
	Kindergarten
	Kindergarten

Jayda Powell	Grade 1
Audrey Cordel	Grade 1
Mason Parson	Grade 1
Lanie Hazzard	Grade 1
Jael Murphy	Grade 1

Colten Sturgis	Grade 2
Fiona Montejo	Grade 2
Elijah Scott	Grade 2
Mackenzie Morris	Grade 2
Connor Salzman	Grade 2

Tanner McNatt	Grade 3
Jack Augustus	Grade 3
Ian Mainor-Esquivel	Grade 3
Sky Wilson	Grade 3
Savannah Geist	Grade 3

Ava Tush	Grade 4
Danica Colbert	Grade 4
Austin Willis	Grade 4
Kasey Humbertson	Grade 4
Hope DiMaio	Grade 4

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hunter Marinelli	Kindergarten
Myron Twumasi	Kindergarten
Ryan Diggs	Kindergarten
Nova Rasmussen	Kindergarten
Mason Morris	Kindergarten

Carter Tracy	Grade 1
Sophie Netz	Grade 1
Colt Collett	Grade 1
Mackenzie Crew	Grade 1
Sydney Wick	Grade 1

Griffin Klingmeyer	Grade 4
Brooke Wagenhoffer	Grade 4
Oriana Ray	Grade 4
Caroline Maher	Grade 4
Jada Poole	Grade 4

Kyler Stevens	Grade 2
Samantha Bangson	Grade 2
Summer McElrath	Grade 2
Lillian Husfelt	Grade 2
Yadiel Rodriguez	Grade 2

Reagan Bartsch	Grade 3
Shylah Bruce	Grade 3
Jianni Capone	Grade 3
Lillian Constien	Grade 3
Oluwatoni (Toni) Adejoro	Grade 3

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jeremy Lee	Kindergarten	Violet Boulden	Grade 2
Scarlett Kinsey	Kindergarten	Norah Wilson	Grade 2
Caldwell Jack	Kindergarten	Karima Johnson	Grade 2
Joanna Wallace	Kindergarten	Lily Dixon	Grade 2
Leah Reed	Kindergarten	Alethea Barker	Grade 2
Colin Biddle	Grade 1	Ashlyn Robinson	Grade 3
Georgia Evans	Grade 1	Micah Larson	Grade 3
Katelyn Bullock	Grade 1	Benjamin Carter	Grade 3
Kilah Brown	Grade 1	Alyssa Harris	Grade 3
Teneal Knight	Grade 1	Zaviera Bullock	Grade 3
	William Alvarado	Grade 4	
	Maliya Charon	Grade 4	
	Kendal Gede	Grade 4	
	Laila Mosley	Grade 4	
	Brayden Street	Grade 4	

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Jada Walker	Grade 5	Elizabeth Hufschmidt	Grade 5
Briana Catalon	Grade 5	Keely Coleman	Grade 5
Gabriella Charles	Grade 5	Ryan Roberts	Grade 5
Ronald Burroughs	Grade 5	Tristan Sutherland	Grade 5
Destiny Kotowski	Grade 5	Desiree Taylor	Grade 5
Evan Trettel	Grade 6	Taylor Sands	Grade 6
Natalie Jacono	Grade 6	Brianna Kalb	Grade 6
Joshua Swartzentruber	Grade 6	Colleen Nicholson	Grade 6
Taylor Wallace	Grade 6	Mia Davis	Grade 6
Kharyzma Goldsborough	Grade 6	Ava Emrich	Grade 6

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Caroline Davis	Grade 7
Reaghan King	Grade 7
Lily Jeandell	Grade 7
Annia Castro	Grade 7
William Bryce Daniels	Grade 7
Kadon Denson	Grade 8
Ruth Smith	Grade 8
Keiran Knaupe	Grade 8
Mary Watts	Grade 8
Robyn Swinton	Grade 8

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Rebecca King	Grade 9	Emmanuel Mbah	Grade 11
Alexia Thompson	Grade 9	Nasir Serrano	Grade 11
Wayne Knight	Grade 9	Ashaiyah Price-Groomes	Grade 11
Lacey Arment	Grade 9	Thomas Smith	Grade 11
Bryce Mullen	Grade 9	Rebecca Brown	Grade 11
Julia Brown	Grade 10	Maximus Morrissiey	Grade 12
Katrice Burnette	Grade 10	Tavian Smith	Grade 12
Shawn Swanson	Grade 10	Gabrielle Spence	Grade 12
Symphony Henriquez	Grade 10	Imani Forbes	Grade 12
Maya Green	Grade 10	Kara Ashleigh Warburton	Grade 12