

Everyone Has Their Own Hero

Katsiaryna Zhdanok, Belarus

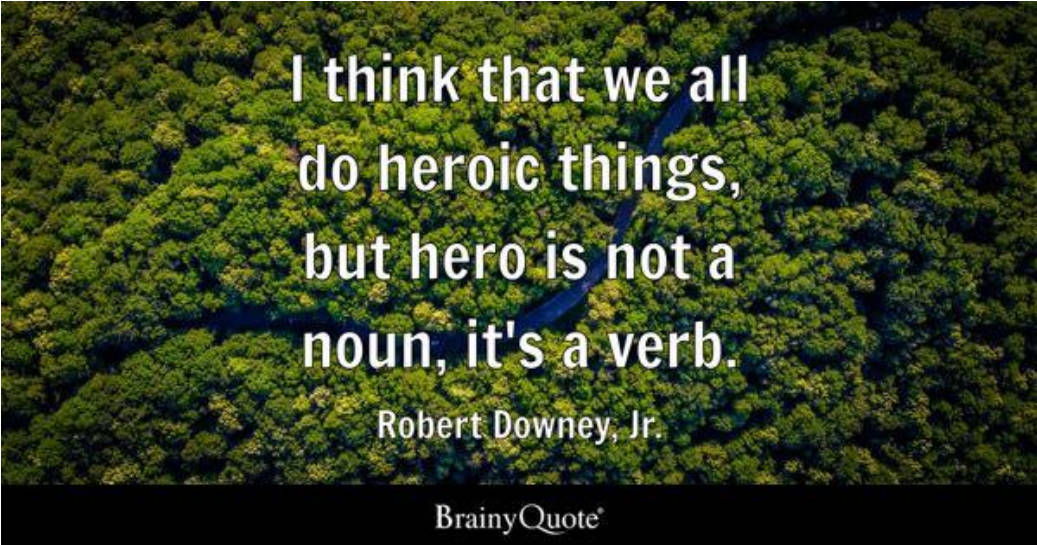
I would like to tell you about one hero. His name is Vladimir. Vladimir was born in the USSR and grew up in a small village near the city of Minsk. Vladimir served in the army in Germany. He had good prospects and offers in the army, but he did not make a career in the army. Vladimir's young wife was waiting for him at home.

On the evening of April 28th, 1986, Vladimir watched the program "Time" at home, where for the first time it was reported about the disaster at the Chernobyl station. Chernobyl is a city in Ukraine near the border with Belarus.

As it became known, on April 26th, 1986, an explosion occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and a significant release of radioactive materials into the environment was recorded. The evacuation of residents has begun.

A few days later, Vladimir was already in Chernobyl. He was one of the liquidators of the Chernobyl disaster. He saved people and animals, participated in work near the reactor. Liquidators were engaged in disconnecting equipment, dismantling debris and other work directly near the reactor, as well as in the engine room and other rooms of the emergency unit. Vladimir knew that he would receive a dose of radiation, but he continued to think about other people. It was a difficult and dangerous job. Vladimir received the medal of the liquidator of the Chernobyl disaster.

This hero is my father. I am proud of my father! Unfortunately, the Belarussian government has forgotten about its heroes.



I think that we all
do heroic things,
but hero is not a
noun, it's a verb.

Robert Downey, Jr.

Metaphor Poetry: Realities can be perceived in unique ways.

The following poems were inspired by the poem "Marrying" by Charles Harper Webb, which was read in Reading 5/6.

Life by Pietro Piccolo (Italy)

A basketball game.
Sometimes you watch, sometimes it's your turn to play.
When it's your moment you play, exactly as everyone else.
You try to do your part: You defend; you help people from your side.
You make mistakes, opponents score.
That is the moment to stay focused.
The next action needs much more commitment.
Now it's not your moment, you need to focus to pass the ball correctly to your mate.
You did your job, he scored.
After that, defense again: teamwork.
An infinite loop; use your knowledge, listen to your teammates, listen to your coach, learn.
Learn from your mistakes, learn from how the game develops, learn from what you experience.
In this game you give everything you have.
Even if you lose the match, you cannot lose.
You're now more than what you were before.
You learned.
You struggled.
You reached your goals.
You played.

Newborn Child by Guixia Liu (China)

A blank sheet of paper.
The painters paint a piece of work.
Painters should not be careless and sloppy with the painting of their pictures.
They can paint a rainbow or a colorful flower,
But if the painter does not draw carefully, not seriously, there will be a black spot there.
All of the painter's performances are absolutely permanent,
And the irrevocable result is either good or bad.
So how should this picture be painted?
A painter with a bad temper cannot create good work,
But the patient painter presents an example for others.

Friendship by Gina Ramirez Carrasco (Colombia)

One day as you grow up,
 a gift is sent from God,
You don't decide what kind
 of gift you want.
You just open the gift and you
 don't figure out that you are opening it,
You start to discover different
 words in a box inside, a shiny box;
You get some words, no more,
(Cont. p.3)

Friendship (*Continued*)

but you decide to keep the box
Just wondering how to figure your gift out.

As time goes on, all of the words have made sense,
and they are given to you just in time
when you need them,
You have discovered more things inside the gift,
and these things give
calm, peace, happiness, relief.
You decide to take care of and love your gift for more time

Years later you notice you have a link with the gift,
and it is resistant to the passage of time
and to almost all calamities.

A link you feel you need
for ever.

Music by Carol Kok (United States)

Amusement parks
Endless options for enjoyment
Rides to try
Go with the flow
Some are fast and some are slow
Games abound
Participation optional
Emotionally
Physically
Food everywhere
Scrumptious flavors
Savory
Smooth
Sour
Sweet

Abandon the mundane
Amusement parks

Working by Zhenyuan Dong “Rebecca” (China)

You've been walking on the street.
Drinking coffee every day.
Coffee shops are everywhere.
Which one is best for you?
Allow you to try some times.
But you are in a long line to wait for your favorite.
You have to change to a coffee shop which is not busy.
When you think about which one you want to choose.
Waiter is pushing you.
Someone behind you is complaining.
Then, choose whatever is good or not.
Then, you pay and drink it.
Whether you like it or not.
Drinking more, it will get better with time.

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Christopher Reeve

BrainyQuote

My Uncle...*Rashed Alshalwan, Saudi Arabia*

My hero is my uncle. He is wise, happy, friendly, strong, and fun. He saved me from death more than once. He helped me from drowning, and helped me from cars, and saved a lot of others. He has a white heart. He is friendly with all ages. I sometimes think that he was created to benefit and help people. He doesn't like to see anyone sad. This is my hero and my favorite uncle.

My Father...*Awadh Alhutaylah, Saudi Arabia*

My hero is my father from ancient times until now. He was reconciling people and helping them. My role model in life without a doubt, he brings in my life the most joy. I feel pride to him. You are being judged no matter what, so be who you want to be – so he always loves what he does. It was his dream to be an astronaut, but that didn't happen. Now, he owns a lot of cars and camels. He has donated more than half of these camels to the needy or the poor. This is an honor for me and my family, and always motivating. Honestly, he won't repeat for ages – words cannot describe it. I hope to see you, my hero, soon.



The Mighty Thor...*Jefferson Guanuche, Ecuador*

Thor is one of my favorite characters because he is looked up to in many ways. With his Mjolnir hammer, he is the master of thunder and lightning. Among his superhuman abilities are strength, speed, endurance, and resistance to injury.

He also has a soft side to him which is why people love him. Most would describe him as very helpful, courageous, friendly, energetic, and cheerful. When called upon he shows his courage to help defeat evil and show his purpose. That's what I love about him. He doesn't give up and he shows his gratitude for his people. He might like to show off with his powers, but with all his abilities, most would. He always gathers a team to defeat the villains. He never works alone as he could – he would rather work together and come up with a plan. He is a true warrior, a fighter. That's why I chose Thor, because he has many of my qualities to work together and achieve more.

My Mother...*Wei Kou, China*

In my heart, my mother is my hero. She does nothing big, but what she does makes others inferior to her. I learn a lot. When I was a baby, she taught me how to walk and speak. When I went to school, she helped me solve many problems. She taught me to be kind to others.

My mother is a teacher. She is always busy with her work. While she corrects students' homework, she is always serious. She is responsible to all of her students. She cares much about students' study and life. She tries her best to help students in need.

My mother is a loving mother and a qualified teacher. She is doing an ordinary job while making a great contribution to the society. She is a hero in my heart.

In my opinion, some true heroes are easily ignored. They are heroes and should be praised.

Remember: You Are the Hero in Your Own Life



Jesus Delgado, Venezuela



Nicole Chun Tao Dal, Taiwan

Friends across Borders



Left to right: Michael, Indonesia; Jesus, Venezuela; Silvio, Colombia; Sarah, Saudi Arabia; Diana, Colombia; Gina, Spain, and Nicole, Taiwan

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