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Writers' Workshop - Mr. O'Keefe  
11/6/2024

## **What Am I Thankful For This Year?**

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***This year, I have many things to be thankful for, however I am most thankful for my little cousin beating cancer and making me realize what is really important in life.***

***When I first got the news my cousin was sick I was very sad and very scared. Cancer is not something that you deal with all the time, it is something that you mostly hear about. I never thought it would hit so close to home until my younger cousin got it. However, after a very long year of doctors, hospitals, tests, treatments, and surgery, he finally beat cancer.***

***I first saw my cousin J (his name is Joseph but we call him J) again at our annual family Easter party . In 2023, we didn't have one because that was when he first got sick. He was not allowed outside of the hospital. We couldn't visit because he could not be around a lot of people. He couldn't even go home for a really long time.***

***However, Easter 2024, was when we were able to get together. When I found out he was coming to the party, words could not describe how excited I was. When I first saw him, he had changed so much. He was taller and lost all his hair but he still had that beautiful smile and laugh. He always had an outgoing personality but this time he was even more outgoing. I think it was because he was so excited to see everyone. The first minute he saw me, he rushed over and gave me the biggest hug, the best hug I ever received from a person. He told me all about the things he could finally do. That day, we played games, watched shows, painted, and played on the swings and telling funny jokes. J loves telling jokes and he was always the one telling***

***them, he sounded so much older than he is. That's why I found it so funny.***

***He had an interest in basketball, and a year ago, he couldn't play, so they made him the team manager so he can still be a part of the team.***

***This year, he could play, and he was so excited! He was able to go back to school too, I have never seen someone so happy about school. But school wasn't the only thing he was excited for, it was to see his friends. This experience taught me to be thankful for the little things because you never know what could happen. I am also thankful for the wonderful care the doctors gave to my cousin.***

***Another thing I am grateful for is my parents always trying their hardest to make me happy. I know my parents work very hard. My mom always brings me anywhere I need to be. Whether I need to go to practice for soccer, basketball or sewing my mom is always there to bring me. My dad is a very hard worker. He works all the time but I know it is for my family and I am thankful for the sacrifices he makes. He will go without just so we have what we need or want. He always makes me laugh, even when I am upset. Both of my parents always make me happy. They never fail me. Whenever I am sick, my dad and mom are both there to help me. They made sure I had a good day and if I don't, they find a way to fix it or help me deal with what is going on. They always prioritize me and my sister.***

***I never realized I could be so grateful for things that cannot be bought. Sometimes, I don't always realize what I have. Often, people are thankful for things they can buy. But when I realize all I have, like my friends, my family and my health. It makes me realize how very lucky I am and I will always be thankful.***