

An excerpt from Hannah Waide's Winning Essay

For a while after I came into the high school you weren't so prominent in my life. You were an extremely talented teacher, sure, but you didn't stand out to me in who you were.

Then you gave your speech.

Then you told us about your life.

Then we forged a bond.

My class was an annoying class - of that I am certain. I'm sure that many times you wanted to bash your head against the wall in frustration. But you stuck with us. And because of that each and every one of us now agrees on at least one thing – you are an amazing and awe-inspiring person. If you aren't our favorite teacher you are sure to be our second favorite.

You support each and every student in his or her endeavors. You make time to talk to each student. Your motto was and still is to “make every student feel like they're my favorite.” And you accomplish that.