

*Maxim: "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway" –John Wayne*

I chose the maxim "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway" because I think that courage should be a characteristic of utmost importance in your life. My favorite president, Abraham Lincoln, showed this in his time period. Lincoln was trying to do the right thing but some people did not agree, and it led to a big war. Lincoln was born in a cottage, but he was one of the bravest men I know. His poverty did not weaken his resolve to do the right thing no matter what. I believe that President Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and even I have shown courage at some point in our lives.

I chose Abraham Lincoln because he was one of the people that went from one courageous move to the next. He also demonstrates this maxim in his life. He understood that living and demonstrating this characteristic would help others and change the world. One way he did this is by signing the Emancipation Proclamation back in 1863. This was not a popular choice in South and many people wanted to keep slavery and even threatened to kill him for his stand. President Lincoln stood by his decision and now people of all colors are united as one. Most communities are not divided or segregated because of this first step. I believe that President Lincoln showed tremendous courage and great leadership.

Another example would be Dr. Martin Luther King. He was a significant civil rights leader. All he wanted was for African Americans to be treated just like others. He showed courage when he was going up against the police and when he was marching up towards Washington D.C. When he made a speech that was so important, it took a lot of courage to talk in front of millions of people. The "I Have a Dream" speech is one of the most popular speeches in the world and has impacted many people,

nations, and cultures. His courage even led to his death. Martin Luther King Jr. is a great example of what courage truly means.

Next, I'm going to explain how I have showed courage. I remember when I was 10 years old and my little brother fell into the pool. He did not know how to swim; neither did I. But the love I had for my little brother made me jump in the pool anyway. I saved him. It was the courage in me that jumped in the pool. From that lesson, I learned that being courageous brings the best out of you and tells the other person how much you care even if it means sacrificing your own life for theirs. I believe courage is being scared to death but doing something that is worth it at the end.

From Abraham Lincoln in the 1860's, to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960's, all the way up to me, we can see courage is something everyone is born with, but that not everyone demonstrates. Courage is something that can really bring the best out of yourself and can tell how much you care if your life is in danger. I hope that I can continue to show courage and set an example for others throughout my life. "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway", and I hope my horse keeps riding.