

The Example Ms. Durham tried to follow.

Penny Crofford
Language, Hour 4
August 13, 2009

“Thanks, but No Thanks”

Not many people will ever get a call from Rosie O’Donnell, Oprah Winfrey, David Letterman, or their staffs, but Phil Miller of Amarillo, Texas, not only received calls, but was invited to be on their television shows. Being a foster parent led to Phil’s adopting a family of six children ranging in ages from 18 months to 10 years old – three boys and three girls – as a single parent. Because of this selfless act, Phil not only was invited to appear on these stars’ shows with his new family, but also turned the opportunities down, despite the fact that the new family probably would have received amazing gifts from such generous hosts. After thinking over the offers, Phil told them, “We need to learn how to be a family before we can be a media event. Even if we’re never on television, we’ll always be a family, and that’s something we’ll need to practice a lot.” There are few people who would be able to choose anonymity over fame and fortune, but the Millers did and have become a close family who treasure the “ordinary” life they lead.

Comment: America

Comment: Detail

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Comment: Introduction to quotations

Comment: Questions

Comment: Commentary/Conclusion

Ms. Durham's first attempt
does not fit the format.

Shelly Durham
LA English
August 22, 2013

Shopping with HaHa

Graceful and gregarious, Ms. Ericka Willer loves to tell stories. Ask her a question and watch her eyes light up and her smile broaden. One of her favorite stories is about a grandfather she grew up calling “HaHa.” She named him that because he could always make her laugh. Describing her beloved HaHa, Ms. Willer beamed, “We were best buddies – we did everything together!” Every Saturday was their Mall Day and one Saturday in 1993, HaHa took ten-year-old Ericka shopping at Dillard’s without Mimi, Ms. Willer’s grandmother who happened to be out of town. HaHa went a little over budget when he agreed to buy his granddaughter designer Guess jean overalls. Little Ericka nodded her head when HaHa warned her, “Now, don’t tell Mimi.” But two weeks later, a growth spurt happened for the tall and lanky ten-year-old, and the designer overalls were way too short. Mimi happened to be out of town again, so HaHa took Little Ericka back to the mall, this time to have the expensive overalls altered into overall shorts. “Now don’t tell Mimi,” he warned again. Ms. Willer’s infectious laughter accompanied the rest of the story. It was two week later when she found herself sitting at the kitchen table eating biscuits with both of her grandparents. When someone asked, “What are we going to do today,” an awkward silence filled the room as HaHa and Little Ericka tried not to remember their secret. It was Mime who answered. “Well, we’re not going to the mall to turn those Guess overalls into something else like a dress or a skirt.”

Ms. Durham's second attempt fits the format, but she likes the first one better.

Shelly Durham
LA English
August 22, 2013

Omigosh!

Graceful and gregarious, Ms. Ericka Willer loves talking about her family. Her family is a “crazy” family that makes her laugh. She grew up with an older brother and sister and one younger sister. Her immediate family consists of Ms. Willer and her husband of three and a half years, Brett Willer. When asked about him, she immediately began with, “Omigosh!” Then she quickly followed up with, “He’s so sweet, I just want to kiss his face all the time.” One can’t help but laugh and smile whenever Ms. Willer talks about the people she loves.