



## Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews 2019 Essay and Creative Arts Competition

### Essay Award - Grade 6

Jackson Lynch, St. Mark's Episcopal School

How would you feel if someone suddenly took away one of your siblings? It's a horrible feeling. I know how it feels to overcome this a big challenge. Martin Luther King Jr. states, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." He does a great job explaining how I needed to never give up hope when my foster brother was returned to his biological mother. Being Roman's foster brother has taught me what it's like to hope for something even though it might never happen.

After being with our family for 14 months, the court ordered Roman to go back and live with his biological mom. I spent over a year of loving my little brother. I helped him take his first steps and was with him when he said his first word. Saying goodbye to his was one of the saddest moments of my life. The next couple weeks were so hard, I was worried about if he was being loved, if he was safe? His mom told us that he was waking up in the morning and going to the window and calling for us. That was a lot to handle for a ten-year-old.

In the weeks to come, I turned to my faith and relied on the hope that he would be safe. Praying God would take care of Roman was something that me and my family did. We hoped that we would see him again and all of us wanted to see him grow up to be happy and healthy kid. My family and I had to rely on hope to get me through this difficult time our lives. After four months, the state decided it wasn't safe for him to stay with his bio mom anymore, so he came back to live with us again. I needed to rely on my faith and hope during this hard time.

Through this experience, I have learned many life lessons. I didn't realize how much I loved Roman until I lost him and thought that I would never see him again. Sometimes all I could do was pray and hope God would answer my prayers. I never stopped hoping and trusting in God's plan and that gave me peace. I had no way of knowing what the future held, but God was protecting Roman just like he always had. The biggest life lesson I learned was to never give up hope.

To conclude, being a foster brother can be difficult because most of the time you don't know what's going to happen. When he left us, I was sad and worried, but I hoped and prayed he would be safe and I learned many life lessons. Roman has grown a lot and he is now living with me and my family. We adopted him on October 26, 2018. Don't ever lose hope because God has a plan for each of us. Sometimes it just takes time for it to unfold.