**Prompt #1**

***Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.***

I was a very spoiled and self-centered child. Everything had to revolve around me: I was pampered and everything that I wanted was always given to me. It was the combination of an unfortunate experience and the role model in my mom that changed everything.

My mom is a very loving person. Ever since my siblings and I started going to school, she would always cook for us and bring us the food during lunch to make sure we got healthy and warm food. Not only that, she would always help us with our school work and communicate with teachers to help us improve. On the complete opposite, I was pampered and self-centered. I'd become furious if things didn't go my way. Everything I wanted should be completed regardless of whether my parents were tired or didn’t have the time. I thought that everyone had to treat me this way since my parents did so.

Everything changed in a blink of an eye. My mom stopped cooking and bringing us food to school. She also stopped helping us with our school work. I was lost in disbelief; I didn’t think that my mother who loves cooking and going to school with me would stop doing those routines. She will always “travel” to China. Ever since, I started to rebel and throw temper tantrums with the main goal of possibly attracting my parents’ attention, especially mom’s. The house would look like “kapal pecah”, shipwreck all the time. The mess, and the cold, unhappy aura of a house, they began chipping away at my family.

It was two years later when I found out the truth about why she stopped doing her routines that time: my mom had been diagnosed with cervical cancer and is still continuing her treatment.

“We decided to keep this information away from you kids so it wouldn’t affect your mental state,” my father said. “Now that you are more mature, we feel like it’s the right time to tell you guys”

I felt really guilty after hearing this news. During those hard times not only did I not help out the family but I made it a living hell for them. I started to see things from a clearer lens on how this situation had massively affected my family. My father was stressed out, my mom was unlively, the house was a mess and the aura was depressing to say the least. I couldn’t take it anymore. I needed to replenish our family’s vigor.

I decided to at least help out the household and try to take on mom's role in the house: cooking, doing chores, and taking care of my siblings. At first, I was clueless. I messed up a lot. I would make burnt fried eggs, collect dust on one corner, and teach my siblings without patience. The house gradually seemed brighter as I improved doing house chores.

In the year 2018, after all this mess, my mom has recovered and the environment of the family has never been happier. Looking back, I realized that I have grown up a lot during this process. Due to my mom’s absence, I took on all the responsibilities and pressure since I thought, as the eldest son, I must do anything to help the family. This allowed me to turn from a self-centered and spoiled child to a responsible, independent, caring and overall more matured person. Most importantly, my growth as a person changed the atmosphere in the house, which set a better environment for my siblings and I to grow up in. I believe that my growth will be a constant advantage in my life; my independent character and responsibility could help me go through a lot of hardships. No matter what I face, I will find a way to overcome it by myself and at the same time be responsible to my family. Even though I have matured from before, I believe that I still have room for improvement. I look forward to improving further in the future.