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Mrs. Graning

English 11

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Me Before You: Will Traynor is a normal person who has a life changing accident that causes him to be paralyzed. The event causes lifelong depression for Will and affects the lives of everyone around him. Louisa's life gets turned around the moment she gets hired as Will's caretaker. Louisa's bright and loving energy affects Will to think differently about life. Will's final decision shocks everyone in his life. Will Traynor's motorcycle accident causes his character to transition from adventurous and outgoing to depressed and suicidal; however, after meeting Louisa he has more of a reason to live.

Will was a very outgoing and adventurous person prior to his accident. He lived a dangerous life, always on the edge. Will rode a motorcycle, summited the fourth tallest mountain in the world Mount Kilimanjaro, and was a fearless skydiver. He loved the outdoors and being in thrilling situations. Will's motorcycle accident happened on a rainy evening in London, England. As he was crossing the street a bright light appeared to be heading towards him. "The last thing he sees is a leather glove, a face under a helmet, the shock in the man's eyes mirroring his own" (Moyes 4). Will was hit walking across a street by a motorcycle. The wreck changed Will's life forever. Now a depressed quadriplegic he feels he has no meaning for life. He tells his parents of his plan of suicide. Will's mother is shocked and is trying to do everything in her power to change his mind. Will's Father on the other hand believes it's Will's decision. Mr. and Mrs.

Traynor didn't see eye to eye on the subject but they both care and love Will with all their hearts. Will gave them six months before he will go through with the suicide.

Will's thoughts of suicide scared everyone close to him. He has already attempted one time. They felt there was nothing left to do. They would rather it be a medical suicide than him doing it himself. He was bored all the time and every day was the same. Will's depression got worse every day that he stayed alive. He was in pain all the time and didn't want to be anymore. Will couldn't be himself. He enjoyed living on the edge and being free. Will was an amazing skier, he loved skydiving, and enjoying life. He also had a beautiful girlfriend whom he loved. For the first year he was paralyzed he tried to get movement back, but all he got was little movement in his index finger and thumb. Will had given up. He no longer had any reason to live. He never laughed, smiled, or had any happiness.

Mrs. Traynor hires Louisa Clark to take care of Will and to hopefully change his mind. At first Will isn't very nice to her. He thinks she talks too much and dresses funny. Louisa wants to quit but she knows she can't give up on him. Will eventually turns around and starts to enjoy her company. He starts to show a little sense of humor, which was mostly sarcasm. Although Lou didn't always like it. "Come on, what's the worst that could happen—I end up in a wheelchair"(Moyes 68) Louisa invites Will to a classical music concert. Will is very happy because he finally gets to enjoy something again. In return Will invites Louisa to his ex-girlfriend's wedding. He had a great time at the wedding. Will finally feels like a real man again. He really starts to like Lou and even goes to her birthday party, even though he doesn't like to meet new people. Will gets her a bumble bee leggings for her birthday. At this moment Louisa realizes that he really cares about her. Louisa, running out of time, plans a trip to hopefully change his mind. They have a great time together on the trip and Louisa thinks Will is

reconsidering. On the last night of the trip Will thanks Louisa for her time. Will has made his decision that his life will end very soon. Will states “ I need this to end here. No more chair. No more pneumonia. No more burning limbs. No more pain” (Moyes 326). He asks her if she will come to Switzerland with him. She declines his offer and tells him that he is selfish and stupid. But Lou’s family convinces her to go. When she gets there she sees Will’s parents. “ Mrs. Traynor looked ghostly pale” (Moyes 356).

Will’s ultimately makes his heart wrenching decision to commit suicide was a result of a terrible accident caused by a motorcycle. He wanted to escape his pain and depression. Louisa’s loving and exciting attitude was almost enough to keep him alive. But not only did Louisa change Will’s life he also changed her’s.