The object that I chose to represent me is the symbol of the imperial legion from the *Elder Scrolls* video game series. *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* was the first fantasy role playing game that I ever played, and it showed me that escaping from mundane daily life was attainable, which is something that novels, comic books, and movies had all failed me as a child. Being able to get away from normal life was something I found great fun in when I was young, and I would play any video game I could get my hands on. Unfortunately, since seventh grade, homework and other activities have severely cut back on my ability to game when I want, and I’ve had to become more selective in my gaming. This has lead me to become an even bigger fan of role playing games (like *Elder Scrolls*) since they allow me to come back again and again over a long period of time and always experience something new.

One of the most important places to me is Martha’s Vineyard, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. I’ve spent one to two weeks there every summer since I was five. The quiet and chill atmosphere there has always been a great get-away for me, allowing me to escape the noise and hustle of life in California. It also is probably the one place on earth that I have found where I can enjoy reading novels and not have the desire to put the book down and find just about anything else to do. This has, in turn, caused it to be the place where I do all my summer reading, since when I do it at home, it is like pulling teeth to me. Without Martha’s Vineyard I would probably have much less appreciation for calm and quiet.

My favorite comedian is definitely Dave Chappelle, so it was only fitting that I chose his quote “I love my jokes” for this project. This line perfectly encapsulates me, since I find myself extremely funny, even if others don’t. I don’t really need people’s acceptance of my ideas or jokes as in this specific example, and whether or not I like my jokes is in no way correlated to the opinions held by others. In fact I think it is a major problem in our modern society when people prioritize the opinions of others over their own when making decisions. People need to think for themselves and just love their own jokes because if you can’t make yourself laugh, then you’re pretty out of touch.

My name came about as coincidence of two events of little significance, one involving a book and the other some old guy my dad knew. The book upon which it was based was *Where the Wild Things Are,* a picture book centered on a child named Max, and my parents decided that was a good name, so they used it. But my parents also thought that my name was too short and boring, so they decided to name me “Maximilian” after the father of one of my Dad’s childhood friends who mentored him. When I was in preschool, the other children thought I was named Maximilian because I had a million dollars. This came in very handy when bargaining with little kids, since you can tell them you’ll give them a million dollars and the next day they will have already forgotten. While the genesis of my name is not the most interesting, I will always be grateful my name isn’t Maxwell because having something that sounds like a large number following your name is preferable in my opinion to having the end of your name refer to something primitive people got their water from.