

“DEFYING GRAVITY” Essay Contest Grand Prize Winner

“YOU CAN'T PULL ME DOWN”

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“I'll try defying gravity, and you can't pull me down!” I think we all need to start thinking like that. Elphaba stood up for what she believed in right up to the very end, and I know that takes courage. You just need to close your eyes and leap.

We are all different in our own way, but how boring would that be if we were all the same? I was born with Cerebral Palsy, and I know I am different. I also know that we have all experienced bullying in some way, whether you were the bully, the victim, or a person standing on the sidelines. I have been bullied a few times, and it felt awful.

I don't understand why anyone would want to hurt another person. Is there ever really a good enough reason for hurting someone? Who cares if you are green?

My family and friends know my limits on what I can and cannot do, but besides that, I have never really felt that I was different from anyone else. Even though I have been bullied a few times, I am lucky enough to know a lot of people who have never treated me like I was different from anyone else. I am really thankful to them for treating me like that.

I hear stories on the news every once and awhile about kids who have been bullied because they were different in some way and have killed themselves. Most of the time in those stories, it seems those kids' families didn't even know they were getting bullied. I am very lucky to have family and friends that I can be very open with and talk to about my problems. Even Elphaba had Fiyero and Glinda to stand up for her; I think everyone should know at least one person they can talk to about anything, and who will support them always.

I know that people get physically bullied, verbally bullied, and cyber bullied, and I think when someone tells a person that they won't be able to do something that is also bullying. I mean, we all know that nothing is impossible, so why would you tell a person she couldn't do something that she dreamed about doing someday? I have never seen *Wicked*, but I know that in the song “For Good” Elphaba tells Glinda that she is limited. Elphaba says that to Glinda because right away she is considered a freak, and she is pushed away until she no longer believes in the dreams she once had. *Nobody should ever feel like she is limited because none of us are. We all have some limits, but those are like bumps in the road and should never stop us from doing something. If I think of those little limits as disadvantages, I can find a way to turn them into advantages.*

Still, when it comes down to it, we are all a little bit wicked. We have all done some things that we regret, and we can't take them back. None of us are perfect, and we never will be.

We are human, and no human is ever perfect. We have all hurt at least one person in our lifetime, and we just need to apologize and hope that the person we have hurt will forgive us. If we have been bullied, it might be hard to do, but we just need to forgive and forget. If we do, we can go into the world an even stronger person than we were before. We learn from our mistakes in life, and what has happened to us, and I believe we become better people because of it.

No matter what happens, though, we just need to stay strong. Things and people will come along who don't want us to fly, and we just have to block them out. The fact is, there will always be people like that, and we can never let them pull us down. We have to go on in our lives with, hope, happiness, strength, and courage. If we would let those bullies get to us, we would never get anywhere in our lives. We would get attacked until we couldn't take it anymore. We should never let it get to that point. We have to take a chance and stand up for ourselves, and I know that it is easier said than done, but it is something we have to do because sometimes there is no one else there to stick up for us. No one was there for Elphaba in the beginning of *Wicked*, and even though it seemed tough, she stood up for herself. So in the end it comes down to this, never let anyone pull you down, and always try to defy gravity in whatever you do. Elphaba defied gravity when no one believed she could, and we have to follow her example. So come on, let's defy gravity, and no one will ever pull us down.