

Honorable Mention
Mikey St. Onge
Grade 10, Hamilton HS

Joy in Others

Moving here from France was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. My father had recently acquired a “miracle job” and was slated to move to America, yet to me, no job was worth leaving my home. I sat in my bed that was soon to be left behind in my home country and lay there, distraught over how my life was about to change. In the ensuing weeks, I had to break connections and say my goodbyes to all of the friends I had made, as the chances I would ever see them again was next to none. Saying goodbye to my family was undoubtedly the hardest, with tears and heartbreak covering the room. They say all good things come to an end. I just never realized how amazing my life was until it was taken from me. As I walked onto the plane, I waved goodbye to the family I was leaving behind to start a new life.

When I arrived in Chandler, Arizona, I was surrounded by people who spoke a different language and entirely different culture. At first I felt all alone with no one there who could understand or support me. However, I began to meet some of these people and was able to talk to them. My loneliness began to dissipate, and the dark room which I was trapped in began to brighten. I felt like I could actually connect to these people as I got to know these people and what they stood for, despite the dramatically different cultures that created who we were. Soon, I was truly happy living in Chandler, despite the countless miles that separated me and my relatives.

Overall, Chandler has been an excellent experience for me and meeting new people. I know prosperity is usually used to indicate wealth, but I believe that I am prosperous in joy. The experiences I have had in America are some of the most treasured moments in my life and I never want to forget the delight I have had here. When I moved here from Paris, my old community and new community combined to perform a prosperous life that shall never be forgotten.