



My Mom is My Inspiration

Ana Elisa Damaceno

BEFORE YOU READ: Who inspires you? Who is your inspiration?

My mom is my inspiration. She is the kindest person I have ever known.

She is the type of person who likes to help everyone, whether they are part of our family or not. I remember one day we were near a grocery shop, and we saw a woman. This woman asked my mom for milk. She said, "My kids need milk, and I do not have money to buy it." My mom went into the store and bought not just milk, but other food for her kids. Moments like this showed me that my mom has a big heart.

If my mom knows you need help, she will take care of you. One day, her friend did not have money to buy a birthday cake for her child. My mom is an amazing cook and baker. She heard about this situation, and she made a wonderful cake for her friend's child. She also bought a surprise gift for the child.

I also admire her because she never gives up. How do I know this? I know because she has experienced lots of problems in her life, and she still keeps herself strong and positive. For example, she dedicated her life

I have never seen her lose her faith.

to her younger son, who was born with health problems. When he died, she was upset and sad, but she still kept praying to God. I have never seen her lose her faith.

Another reason she inspires me is because she is a friendly person. Everywhere she goes, she knows someone. If she goes to a new place, for sure, she is going to make new friends. Everybody who knows her loves her.

Finally, my mom is a hard worker. She started to work when she was 10 years old. She



was a housekeeper. Her payment for all the work she did was a meal. She started working so early because her mom died when she was two years old, and her father was an alcoholic. When I was a kid, there was a time when she couldn't find a job, and neither

could my stepfather.

They had three kids to feed. My mom came up with a solution. My grandfather's job was to take expired food from the grocery store to the

garbage dump. But he started to sell that food at half price. My mom helped him. She became his housekeeper and received her pay in expired groceries. To get to his house, she had to walk an hour pushing a grocery cart. After she washed his clothes and cleaned his house, she put the expired food in her grocery cart and pushed it home.

My mom taught me to be a good person, to have an open heart and to care for others. She raised me to have faith and never give up. My mom is such a good person. She inspires me.

She became his housekeeper and received her pay in expired groceries.

AFTER YOU READ: Note the structure of this essay. Identify the introductory and concluding paragraphs, as well as the body paragraphs. Underline the topic sentences for each body paragraph. Do the details in the paragraph support the topic sentence? Which paragraphs are strongest? Why?

Ana Elisa Damaceno is a student at Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, CA. She came to the U.S. from Brazil for four years. She has been taking ESL classes to improve her language skills so she can pursue work as a nutritionist.

