



Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews 2019 Essay and Creative Arts Competition

Essay Honorable Mention

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What motivates people to follow their dreams? What powers people to push through problems in their lives? It is hope, and abstract word with a concrete impact. People use hope to empower themselves and others. Examples of people using hope can be found throughout history, the modern world, and the literary world.

In history, famous figures have used hope to face the challenges in their lives. For example, Anne Frank hoped for freedom. She wrote, "Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with courage and makes us strong again." Hope is what kept Anne Frank alive while she was hiding from the Nazis. Another example is the winter at Valley Forge. Several thousand soldiers died, yet many, including George Washington, prevailed. Was it hope for their life, their country, their future that kept them alive? Many believe it was hope that kept George Washington's army alive and powered America to win the Revolutionary War. Hope, even in some of the worst moments in our history, prevailed, enabling people to perform extraordinary feats.

Hope appears often in the modern world. Our military forces risk their lives every day. They travel to foreign countries, leaving their families alone at home, and they risk their lives to defend our country, keep peace, and ensure freedom, all for a better world. Surely hope powers them to do this? My grandfather, Poppy, recently had heart surgery. I was at home while Poppy was in the hospital. I remember feeling helpless. All I could do was to hope for him to live. What must he have felt? What prompted him to get the surgery? Was it also hope? Whatever it was, it gave both of us more hope for his future. In today's world, hope empowers people to change the future.

What caused Harry Potter in the *Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling to sacrifice his life to defeat Voldemort? Was it hope for the future without the blight of He Who Must Not Be Named? It was certainly not a fear of death or him being a coward. Even in the literary world, authors use hope to empower their characters. In *The Silver Mask* by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare, Callum Hunt is faced with a choice. He can either betray his family and friends to become all-powerful, or sacrifice his life for a better world. Hope makes him choose a better world, where everyone can live in peace, not in fear. Throughout literature, characters like Potter and Hunt use hope to improve their lives and change the world.

Hope helps to power people to make good decisions and change the world for the better. We can find hope in every aspect of life, from our history to our military to our families to even our literature. But no matter where it is found, hope will be used to empower people to make decisions that change the world. Without hope, the world as we know it today would not be the same.