

Example Eulogy

Submitted by Joanna Schley of Austin High School in Decatur, AL:

This is the eulogy that I wrote and gave at my mother's funeral. She passed away unexpectedly in 2013 at the age of 58 when I was 30 years old. It can be used by educators for the Success lesson, or they can use something personal – or find another short, meaningful eulogy on the internet.

EULOGY

“Many of you knew her as Diane, but I had the pleasure and honor to call her my mom. I thought about what I would say and it was hard to think that just words could encompass who she really was. Her personality and spirit really can't be described in words. When you think of her, you just smile.

For many of you, the memories I cherish with my mom reflect the same familiar qualities she had within her friendships. She was selfless and had an unconditional love for the people she sounded herself with. She had a big heart, a very witty dry sense of humor, and an infectious laugh. She knew exactly how to enter a room and win over complete strangers with her charisma and charm.

This past April, I shared with my mom a story of the invisible mom and how it made me think of her. She did many great things that went unnoticed and unrecognized. My invisible mom was very similar to the builders of the great cathedrals of our world. Both the builders and my mom dedicated their whole lives to work they would never see finished. They both made great sacrifices and expected no credit; and the passion of their craft was fuelled by love and faith.

What made cathedral builders so special is that they would spend hours on intricate wood-carvings that would end up being covered up by other structures like a roof. Even though no one would see the detail of their work, nor appreciate its beauty, god saw it.

Today we acknowledge those details and the beauty of my mom's life. The sacrifices she made and the selfless acts of kindness. From loads of laundry to clean clothes for that special outfit I just had to have, to Girl Scout camping trips, to tucking me in at night (no matter how old I was), to our vacations together, and to late night phone calls, she was always there for me. I want her and everyone to know that I see the beauty in her life's work. She built a GREAT cathedral and she was far from being invisible.

While going through some of my mom's belongings, I came across a present I had given her for mother's day when I was in college. It was a book entitled, “Why a Daughter Needs a Mom” and I want to share some of those reasons with you.

A daughter needs a mom:

- to provide her with memories that will last forever*
- to tell her that beauty never fades if you look in the right places*
- to give her courage to stand up for herself*
- to show her how to give back to others*

A daughter needs her mom:

- to help her on her wedding day*
- to catch her when she falls*
- to remind her on the bad days, that she is not alone*
- to show her how to love someone with all of her heart*

A daughter needs a mom:

- to tell her that the road to happiness is not always straight*
- to instill patience in her*
- to make sure she keeps a true heart*

A daughter needs her mom:

- because without her, she will have less in her life than she deserves.*

I am beyond blessed with the relationship I had with my mom. She helped me along my journey from girlhood to womanhood and assured me it was more exciting than frightening. While my mom's journey here with us on earth is done, it has not ended. She will continue to empower me to reach my full potential in all aspects of my life. I just hope that I can continue to make her proud because I was so proud to call her my mom."