

What is a hero?

According to the Cambridge dictionary, a hero is a person who is admired for having done something very brave or having achieved something great. To me, a hero is someone who you can look up to. Someone who is determined to help others when needed. Heroes are strong and courageous, and so much more.

If you ask people to name some heroes, I bet you would hear firefighters, police officers, members of the armed forces, nurses, and doctors, to name a few. I agree that these groups all exhibit heroism. I greatly appreciate and admire people that risk their lives for others. Soldiers on the front line of battle or the health care workers currently helping patients with COVID-19 are all obvious heroes.

Lately, I have begun to consider someone living in my home to be a hero to me, my sister. My sister Claire is a senior at Perrysburg High School. She is missing her last high school softball season, her last prom, possibly her graduation, her final exams, and seeing her friends as they finish classes with one another as high school seniors before going off to college.

The reason Claire is missing all of these last high school moments is that currently, all schools are shut down in the United States due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is not safe for kids to be at school at this time, so digital learning is happening instead of face to face interaction with teachers and peers. No longer can students sit with their friends at lunch or work on group projects while sitting together in someone's basement or attending sporting events.

Even though Claire is going through a very tough time over the loss of these wonderful moments, she is still thinking about others. She is putting others before herself while working at a grocery store, Walt Churchill's Market. She is bagging groceries to help make sure people have food during this hard time in America.

She could be exposing herself to people that are carriers of the virus, but she is risking that knowing she is healthy and feels she should do her part. Claire should be playing softball games, shopping for a prom dress, or spending the night at friends' houses.

Instead, she is picking up more hours at the grocery store and cleaning carts with sanitizer and bagging groceries for customers, all with a smile. My sister is not fighting fires, solving crimes, or fighting in a war, but she is helping others and being a good worker. She is doing her small part in this crazy time, but small things can make a big difference. She is courageous and selfless, and always up to helping others. To me, that is a hero, and I am proud of my sister.

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