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The Impressions Other Than the First

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The Impressions Other Than the First

Everyone is quick to judge people based on their first impressions. However, first impressions are merely that-the first of many noted sides of a person. I believe in second chances.

At summer swim camp, I discovered that being “nice” to everyone doesn’t exempt you from enemies. One night, I found out that a girl from my team had called me controlling and fake. As I cried myself to sleep that night, I believed that her mean words defined her. I categorized her as a drama-seeking enemy and convinced myself that my “only child, I’m spoiled” first impression of this girl was completely accurate. She no longer existed to me.

That is until an entire year later, when I found that my enemy and I were stuck in a class together. Up until this point, I had avoided the girl who used mean words to start problems. However, during this class there was no avoiding. As we were forced to engage in fake conversation, I found that my enemy was also two-faced. Then there was a change.

Well actually, I’m not sure if there was a change at all or really just an impression made that was different from the first. It began with tears and continued with confessions of how none other than a boy had mistreated her. Being the “nice” one, I extended a listening ear. Soon I recognized her feelings as something similar to my own. I found that my enemy and I had a very similar past and we bonded over mutual understanding. She soon became the one that understood rather than the drama seeking only child.

Months later I would describe this girl as not an enemy, but a best friend. There isn’t a day when we don’t talk and I have never met anyone with a bigger heart. When we reminisced about that one night at swim camp, I discovered that my hurt feelings almost equaled hers. That night was a spiral of misunderstandings. Luckily, we were able to discover that hurtful words were retaliation rather than truth.

I would describe myself as lucky for having her as a best friend. As I grow up, I know I will acquire enemies. I understand the world is not made up of all nice people. However, I now know that there are a million shades between nice and bad and a hundred other impressions rather than just the first. I believe in a second chance. Everyone makes mistakes, everyone has the ability to change, and everyone should have the chance to prove whom they really are. I also believe in giving myself a second chance to judge another, for I know I have a track record of being completely wrong. My best friend and I believe that in each other we learned a valuable life lesson. One day we will teach our own children to believe in second chances.