

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Essay Category

Honorable Mention: “Philanthropic Prince,” by Hanna Giles

Royalty is often regarded as a prestigious lineage of blood: a family that is better than others, simply because of who they are and not because of what they have done. Not often do these mighty labels truly serve as a fitting title for a person, but Prince Henry Charles Albert David, known as Prince Harry, earns the title of royalty. Prince Harry is the second son of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Diana, the late Princess of Wales. As the grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II, many people simply know Prince Harry as another pawn on the board who awaits the chance to become the ruler, particularly one who enjoys the luxuries of life and indulges in parties. However, Prince Harry shows that he’s not just another royal pawn, nor is he a spoiled and party-seeking bachelor. Instead, Prince Harry is a sympathetic, supportive human-being and philanthropist, who can even be called a savior.

More than the royal party-going lad who has life handed over on a platter, Prince Harry has evolved into a functioning, respectable citizen of humanity, one who holds a surprising amount of sympathy for others. Involved in numerous charities and organizations, Prince Harry is also co-founder of one very special charity called Sentable. Sentable aims towards helping children in Lesotho, South Africa, who were orphaned due to the AIDS pandemic. Prince Harry feels a strong desire towards helping these children and raising awareness of their situation. “Sentable” is a word people in Lesotho use to say “good-bye” that means “forget-me-not,” which Prince Harry hoped would keep others from forgetting the necessity of the cause, and also mirrors as a tribute for the similar charities Diana partook in (“Charities”). Seeing the children in Lesotho provides Prince Harry with renewed senses of gratitude and thankfulness for life, as well as sympathy. This particular charity and the sympathy it evoked started a snowball-effect of involvement in humanitarian work and was the onset of individual acknowledgment for Prince Harry’s philanthropy, showing that even members of royalty have emotions, soft hearts and care for the less fortunate.

The interest that Prince Harry shows in charities is met with great approval and praise from peers and fans world-wide. Taking part in numerous charity work helps to sway popular opinion of Prince Harry from the previous view of a carefree, aloof individual to one who is a solid and trustworthy supporter. One charity that helps better the public view of Prince Harry is the Halo Trust, which raises funds for eliminating old landmine fields. With Prince Harry’s well-known military background, it is a charity that Prince Harry takes much pride and loyalty in supporting. Director of the Halo Trust, Guy Willoughby, says “he has seen so many British and other troops losing their legs on duty in places like Afghanistan...so in many ways it’s a more personal cause for him. It goes with his work for Walking with the Wounded and Help for Heroes” (English, Warren). Seeing Prince Harry get so involved and be so enthusiastic of charities opens the eyes of onlookers and brings a new appreciation for Prince Harry. While growing up, Prince Harry was viewed as indifferent for his lack of involvement in any affairs other than mischief, but upon becoming immersed in meaningful charities with such zeal it was discovered that the lad had become a man with personal interests in supporting others.

Without Prince Harry's dedication and motivation for helping others, many charities would not have gotten the funds or publicity needed to support their causes; in a sense, Prince Harry is a savior for promoting charities that save others. Lesotho would likely not have become a well-known place or receive the help it has if not for the attention Prince Harry provides. Greatly thankful for the humanitarian work in Lesotho, the 'Golden Heart' award was given to Prince Harry at the gala event for the German charity "Ein Herz für Kinder," meaning 'Heart for Children' ("Prince Harry Receives 'Golden Heart' Award"). In similar gratitude, Liz Hughes, the Chief Executive of MapAction, an organization that delivers first-response mapped information about disaster scenes, says "With the support of Prince Harry and fellow guests at our special reception, MapAction can make vital progress in rising to the challenges ahead" ("Prince Harry Celebrates MapAction Achievements"). Prince Harry has embodied hope and salvation for the many lives that these charities affect, showing the world that there are important causes that still require attention. Becoming a savior, Prince Harry has brought awareness to causes and charities that desperately require funds in order to perform the necessary tasks that inevitably save the lives of countless people.

Throughout all of the wonderful causes, charities, organizations and fundraisers, it can easily be said that Prince Harry has evolved into a philanthropist. As a caring sympathizer for the less fortunate and an overall supportive human being, Prince Harry is indeed a savior. Many lives have been positively affected by these philanthropic deeds and would not have gotten the help needed without the support Prince Harry shows. Winning some awards along the way, Prince Harry continues to win the heart of peers and redeem his previous scandalous image into one of a respectable and admirable man. Not only is Prince Harry royalty by blood, grandson of the famous Queen Elizabeth II and son of the late Princess Diana, but also royalty by heart. No more human than the rest of the world, Prince Harry shows through his philanthropy that even people who are born into greatness still have a responsibility to live up to the title; every person should be equal sympathizers and supporters of the less fortunate, like Prince Harry, to show that they are true citizens of humanity.

Works Cited

English, Rebecca. Warren, Lydia. "My mother would be so proud of me': Prince Harry pays tribute to Diana as he wows White House with charity visit in aid of Halo Trust and is greeted by hundreds of screaming fans" <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2322162/Prince-Harry-pays-tribute-Diana-wows-White-House-charity-visit.html>. Accessed 28-September-2015.

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JUDGE'S COMMENTS

This essay shows you can take a topic from a perspective a reader probably doesn't expect (I didn't anyway) and develop that, based on research. I'd like to see you go further. You have this knowledge now. I'm wondering whether you can't do something more with it: perhaps a series of images of the playboy Prince Harry, juxtaposed with the side you're showing us. The images wouldn't necessarily be carefully structured paragraphs, as you've written here. To summarize: you know the rules; now, break them!

*Catherine Frerichs is retired after many years of teaching writing, literature, and other humanities courses at Glen Oaks Community College, Albion College, and, most recently, Grand Valley State University. She is the author of *Desires of the Heart: A Daughter Remembers Her Missionary Parents* (Cold River Studio, 2010), in which she uses her parents' letters, journals, and other research to write about her parents' 40 years of working in Papua New Guinea and the costs to their children. Currently, she is working on a book that explores her relationship with her three Sudanese children whom she foster-parented for seven years and who have remained her children.*