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What Drives You?

Little, delicate hands hold paper-backed stories that feed into a child's imagination. These little hands will soon carry a world in them, making sense of themselves and the people around them. My world began when my mother brought me to a place that I would soon find out was the Davis County Library, and that the little spark of passion between my ribs would be set ablaze for the first time.

I began writing at the bright age of eight years old. My worn composition journals were filled to the brim with story ideas and characters I conjured up in my little mind. This would soon grow into several types of writing—realism, poetry, fanfiction, personal narratives. I discovered remarkable writers such as poet Richard Siken and motivational speaker Maya Angelou. The more I read, the more I desired to create; and soon my heart was rooted. I knew what I wanted to do. Who I wanted to be.

Writing poses as a way to express my ideas and emotions in a way that no other art or form can. It enables me to connect with people by using characters, original or not, to tell others' stories and help their voices be heard. Coming from a family of immigrants, I know firsthand what it's like to have your culture have very little representation in American art, and I have always wanted to bridge my own experiences with family and heritage into my own writing. Language is such a powerful instrument to me. The way it can get people to think—to *understand*—is something I want so deeply to share with humanity.

Sharing my writing with others is such a warm and wonderful thing that I am very grateful for. A couple years ago, I was given the opportunity to have my poetry published in a collection by the America Library of Poetry, titled *Illustrious*, where students from all over the nation were able to submit their works and let it see the light.

I have written several pieces since then—mostly fiction—and have even aided my comrades in their pursuits of film by screenwriting their works. In the future, I plan to study English literature and delve into the studies of creative writing and linguistics as well. I want to create stories that help people learn more about themselves. I want to work alongside others who find solace in the art of world-building and persuasion.

I firmly believed that writing is an art that unifies us. That evening in the library, I felt immersed into a world where language is an art and writing is an outlet. This scholarship would allow me to pursue my connection with people across land and oceans, and to strengthen the ties between our community through storytelling. I hope that another young child with a little mind and grand ideas will step into a library, read my works, and have their own world of literature begin.