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### It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times

Some are driven by power and greed; by fame and money; by love and by war. Some are driven by superficiality and a desire to be the best materialistically. But then, there are those who are driven by inner passions; who devote their time and energy to hobbies and activities designed to help those around them in any way possible. I have never felt driven by money or by fame—I have always felt driven by the passions inside me and giving back to my community. Perhaps what drives me most is not simply one passion or career option, but a conglomerate of multiple. I am driven by music; by time signatures and rhythms, chord patterns and individual notes all strung together to form a song that conveys meaning, purpose and healing. I am driven, also, by literature; by classics such as *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Little Women* and *Frankenstein*— all works with the innate purpose to expose the nature of the world and of humans in general.

Music and literature support one another under the pretense of passing down stories from generation to generation as well as teaching lessons a person may not otherwise understand. Music and literature inspire me to cultivate a world in which we actively acknowledge the depths of our souls and express them to those around us; they inspire me and drive me to better myself and to better the world around me. My biggest goal is to become a teacher and to pass down my

passion and my love for music, as well as classic literature, to future generations and to teach them the most valuable lessons music and literature have to offer them. I want to become a teacher that students can trust and seek comfort, the kind of teacher I have always been drawn to. I want to become a teacher that encourages students to pursue learning and knowledge more than they pursue a letter grade. I want to use music and literature to enlighten future generations to seek after what they are passionate about and to encourage them to find the joy and goodness in words.

I haven't always been so sure of what I want to pursue in the future. In fact, I only truly decided to earn a degree in education, focusing on classic literature and music, about halfway through this school year. Now that I am sure of what I want to do, however, I am determined to see it to the end, no matter what other people may think. Words are a passion of mine. Song lyrics are poetry. Classic literature is composed of profound thoughts put into words on paper. Learning how to achieve my future goals is an ongoing process, but it is one that I am more than willing to pursue because I want future generations to understand education the way I do— that it is a gift and way to discover who we are and what we want from our lives.