

## **Nantucket Book Foundation Young Writers Award 2018 Finalist**

### **“Human Nature”**

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**11th Grade**

As humans, we all have a tendency to judge people. No matter how hard we try not to be judgmental, in the back of our minds there is always that thought when someone walks by. I am like everyone else; I judge people. I form an opinion every day as someone walks by me. I don't try very hard to shut these judgments down because it is human nature but I try my best to keep these judgments from making me the kind of person that is narrow-minded and ignorant to different opinions and lifestyles. I pride myself on being an understanding person, I will not let my judgments keep me from seeing things from another perspective and growing.

The year before I was a freshman in high school my friends told me about a girl that would be attending my high school, everyone I met had crude things to say about her. I listened to everyone's opinions and they completely poisoned my mind. I thought the girl would be the worst person I could ever meet and I did not want to go close to her or even be in the same space as her. On the first day of school when I met her, I took all the things everyone said about her, all the thoughts, opinions and judgments engrained in the back of my mind, and I formed my own opinions. My opinions were biased and everything she did could not be seen as less than horrible all because I had this preconceived opinion of her. I could not bear to hear her speak and every gesture she did aggravated me. I did not realize how wrong my actions were and how awful I was being.

Months into our first semester of high school my judgments of her began to be less hostile and I started to see the true her. When she did things I started to see how amazing she actually was. She was a genuinely kind and understanding person. She was selfless, congenial and caring . As

my new friendship with her progressed I could not help but feel mortified about the way I treated her. How could I let judgments keep me from one of the best friendships I would ever have in a lifetime? I quickly made amends to my mistakes and I erased all judgments from my mind, I started fresh and she became my best friend. I formed all new opinions all of which were good ones that had no ties to what other people said or thought. This was the first time I realized people's judgment should not factor into the way you treat other people.

I am glad this happened because there was a multitude of lessons to be learned from that experience. I started to change my attitude towards strangers. I judge people daily but I never allow those judgments to hinder me from being friends with a person. I learned that people's opinions are important but they should not be the sole factor that you rely on to be a judge of someone's character. Everyone should be given an unbiased chance to show you who they really are. Everyone has a story and the story they have today is different from the story they had in the past. The most important lesson I learned from that experience is everyone deserves a chance to tell their story without others interfering with their chances to make a good impression. It is not a bad thing to judge people but it becomes a problem when your judgment is biased and it shows in your attitude. At the end of the day, mistakes are worth making as long as you learn and grow from them.