

Lauren E. – 5th grade

Letters to Heaven

This is a story about Maya, who wants to see her mom one last time, but can't because her mom is in heaven, so she tries writing letters to her.

Maya. Frizzy, dark brown hair, just lost a tooth, rosy cheeks, piercing blue eyes, innocent 7 year old who doesn't understand death.

Aunty Kat. Short, loves to cook, curly brown hair, works at St. Paul's school and church, sister of Maya's dead Mom and now her legal guardian.

It's Sunday, March 17, 2013 a.k.a St. Patrick's Day. Maya and Kat are getting ready to go to church. "Maya, MAYA, let's go!!!!", Aunt Kat yells from the kitchen. With no sudden footsteps coming from down the hall, Aunt Kat marches down to Maya's room. She pokes her head in to see Maya sorting through a drawer in her closet. "Maya, do you know what day it is today?" Maya turns around, "Yes Aunty Kat, it's St. Patrick's Day!" Aunt Kat smiles, "Maya today is Sunday, and on Sundays we go to church." Maya pats her dress down, "But Aunty Kat I can't go to church, not right now!" Aunt Kat sighs, she knows Maya will have some absurd reason why today is not a good day to go to church. Not that Maya doesn't like church, but it always seems to interfere with one of her tasks. Aunt Kat motions for her niece to sit with her on the bed. Aunt Kat takes a deep breath, "Maya, why can't you go to church? Are you sick" Maya shakes her head, "is there an emergency" Maya shakes her head again, "so please tell me you can't go to church?" Maya jumps up, "Because Aunty Kat, I'm not wearing green and if I'm not wearing green some little booger monster could pinch me!!" Aunt Kat throughs her head back and laughs, "Oh Maya."

April 2, 2013 Dinner

Maya and Aunt Kat are sitting at the kitchen table eating macaroni and cheese. Maya wants to hear a good story, "Aunt Kat, will you tell me a story about you and Mom?" Aunt Kat swallows, and begins her all-time favorite childhood memory with her older sister. Maya is acting like she's on a rollercoaster, first she's sitting still in her seat the next second she's on the edge, and finally she's on her feet begging to know more. "You know Maya, when I was your age my mom used to call me Kit Kat, boy did she love chocolate." Maya giggled, "Can I call you Aunt Kit Kat?" "Yes Maya."

April 5, 2013 Bedtime (2 months after Maya's mom died)

Maya had just finished brushing her teeth and was just about to brush her hair and Aunt Kit Kat was getting Maya's bed ready. Maya took her slippers off and climbed into her aunt's arms. "Aunt Kit Kat, can I ask you something?" Aunt Kat nodded, "Where did Mom go, she's been on vacation a long time." Aunt Kat closed her eyes, "Maya, your mom went to the big church in the sky." "Is she going to Sunday school for grown-ups?", Maya asked. Aunt Kat held her niece's hand and squeezed slightly, "Sweetie, these are big words, and it's okay if you don't understand, but your mom is not alive anymore, she's....." and in a low voice Aunt Kat finished her sentence, "she's dead."

April 6, 2013 Breakfast

Last night, Aunt Kat had explained to Maya what death was, and it was the worst experience for both of them. Maya was devastated that her mom was never coming back from vacation and that she could never see her again. Maya cried herself to sleep in her Aunt's arms. Aunt Kit Kat had cried too, Maya's Mom was the only sibling she had. It was now morning Aunt Kit Kat was tired and sad so she put off her paperwork and went to wake Maya up. She shook Maya, "Maya, Maya, sweetie it's time to get up, Maya." Slowly Maya's eyes opened, "Yes.", she answered weakly. "Honey, It's okay, I here." She brushed the hair out of Maya's eyes. "You're so small and innocent you don't deserve to know what death is. I loved your mom so much. She was my only sister, I'd do anything to go back and tell her to get off the dang phone and look up because there was a drunk maniac racing towards her." Aunt Kat gave Maya a huge hug. "Aunt Kit Kat, it's okay there's no hope, I'll never see her again." Suddenly an idea struck Aunt Kat. "Maya, did I ever tell you that there's mailman that delivers letters to people in the sky?" Maya looked up, "Is there really?" Aunt Kat nodded. Maya jumped out of bed grabbed a piece of paper and a pen. They spent a full hour correcting spelling and making the letter as perfect as possible. When Maya had finished the last word she gave her Aunt a big hug. Their letter looked like this:

Dear Mommy,

Aunty Kit Kat and I miss you very much. We wish you were here right now, but we know you are busy in heaven. Aunt Kit Kat has taken very good care of me, you were very smart by making her my new Mom. I hope I have made you proud.

Love, Maya

Aunt Kat and Maya skipped outside, sat on the curb and put the letter in water bottle, tied some balloons on it, and let it fly away in the wind. Don't worry all the supplies were OK for the environment. As they walked back into their apartment Maya's mom smiled and blew her sister and daughter a big kiss all the way from the sky.