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Being Happy is Your Choice

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Terra Fasold

“This I Believe”

Bucknell Class of 2015

“Being Happy is Your Choice”

The Harry Potter series has brought me laughter, tears, and an entire world to get swept into. I cannot count how many hours I have spent so wrapped up in the story that I became blatantly unaware of my surroundings. I grew attachments to the characters, walking through their perilous journeys and empathizing with them from cover to cover. Although it seemed impossible to pinpoint what it is that I believe, it is through this series that I have discovered the core of my beliefs.

I believe in the words spoken by an admirable, although fictitious, man: “Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light,” (*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*). Albus Percival Wilfred Brian Dumbledore, brainchild of my personal hero, J.K. Rowling, could not have strung together a better phrase of words.

I believe that happiness is up to each and every one of us. It is not, nor will it ever be, served on a silver platter. It is not available for purchase at your local convenience store. And most importantly, it is not a God-given right. That is exactly why our forefathers chose to specifically state that our inalienable rights include “life, liberty, and the *pursuit* of happiness”. It is absolutely 100% acceptable to seek happiness; in fact, it’s encouraged. But no one is going to find it for you. It is your job to find the rainbow instead of sulking in the storm. It is up to you force a smile even when you feel there is no joy to be found inside of you. Because soon, that smile will spread, from your lips to your face and through your entire body. And before you

know it, that smile won't be forced anymore, and you will have realized that somehow, you have managed to turn on the light.

Works Cited

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Dir. Alfonso Cuarón. By J.K. Rowling. Screenplay by Steve Kloves. Perf. Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint. Warner Bros., 2004.