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You notice the small things, don't you? The small things as in a young child picking up a piece of forgotten trash or a stranger comforting someone. You notice that soft smile that spreads throughout everyone around you and that soft smile that spreads to your eyes, and occasionally gives off a petite giggle in the process. Who am I? I am a person of many things. I am a daughter, a niece, a cousin, a granddaughter. People seem to notice that at first glance, but underneath the smiles, there lies a person's true nature. Some of us choose to create our own path while some choose to follow the ones that have already been made by others. As for me, I would rather walk on my own path. And I am feeling pretty close to doing so. You may think I am like anyone else in the world, but I really do think everyone is unique, so there are always going to be some things the same and different. Well I am a 13 year old kid, and I am fully aware that I have the whole world in front of me. I have lived my life as an only child, with no pets. Which unfortunately means that I spend a lot of my time home alone. In the times that I am bored (which is a lot), I tend to drift towards drawing, listening to music and writing, or maybe eating all of the ice cream that is left in the fridge. Whenever I look outside my window I always see someone helping others. Maybe by helping others cross the road, or helping someone in a subject they are not as confident in. If you really look around you, you can always see the kindness in others. But sometimes this polluted world can damage people's thoughts of others. So instead of seeing the bad I choose to see the good. I want to be the start of that contagious smile, that person that gives someone a petite giggle. I may not be successful every time but I can sure try my best.

The color of a wallflower blooms in the sunlight and the dandelions that shared the spotlight the day before wither in the moon. Seeing the color on everyone's sleeves shouts throughout the clouds until it hits the gates of heaven. And when it reaches, it shows the colors of the wind. Those colors, that shine, can be a family. The love that they all share is a love that many cannot fathom. At home you get to notice and appreciate how people in your family share their kindness. At home you can help in one or many ways. For example something I do to help my family when they are in need of help would be doing the dishes. I volunteer to do the dishes whenever I can, and in some way I actually seem to enjoy doing them, (except on chili night.) It's fun to me because I can just listen to music the whole entire time. That's why if I ever seem to think something is a chore I just add some music to give it more of a fun factor. I also take care of the trash, take care of the pool, clean around the house, and put away the groceries. When you are at home, it is a place where you can feel most like yourself. A place where you don't have to feel secluded and left out. If you don't feel like this at home then you still haven't found your right home. Because home is never a place. It is anywhere you choose it to be, and anyone you choose to be with. Home means a warm happy place where you can laugh, live, and love. A place where you can feel like yourself without being judged. Helping others inside your home brings you together, it brings you together as one big happy family. No matter what you do, from the dishes, taking the trash out, cleaning around the house, dusting the house from the top to bottom. It always means a lot to the people inside your very own home. Being inside a home and learning how to take on the responsibility of the world gives us opportunities in life. It always affects our actions outside of our home, and it teaches us how to act everywhere else.

Starting a new book in the beginning of class and blowing the aged dust off, the smell of morning dew as you wake up from your keen slumber. Eating your favorite hot lunch during school and loving every bite and every sensation. Starting a new page in an essay you have been writing and having the feeling of accomplishment filling up inside of you. These are some of the best feelings someone can feel (In my opinion.) And all of them can easily be done just by going to school. From the moment you are greeted at the door to the moment you are on the bus tired from a hardworking day. School can be

one or many things. It could be stressful, full of tests, quizzes, and questions you don't understand. But school can also be a place where you laugh about the tiniest things, a place where you smile and joke around, a place where you learn peculiar things, things you didn't know the previous day. A school is a joyful place where everyone can come together and celebrate their differences. While at school it is important to represent as a leader in the eyes of people around you... especially if you are an eighth grader, everyone looks up to! They look at you like you just won a Nobel Prize, and sometimes in their eyes we did! Ways to show off how you can be a leader would be to maybe participate in clubs, help out with tiny things. Something I have done in the past would be when I helped with the canned food sale, the eighth grade also participated in the Oktoberfest since the original was going to be shut down due to Covid. We are also given the opportunity to hang out with the kids, for 8th grade we are able to have 2nd grade buddies. We are able to show them new things, and to tell them things that they didn't know and I think that is an amazing chance to understand others. While I was younger, maybe in 5th grade, my friend and I let 1st graders pass by us while going out to recess, the teacher was amazed by this because all of my other classmates kept on walking through the first grade students, eager to get to lunch as quick as possible. The teacher of that 1st grade class awarded me and my friend a pack of green and pink Fun Dip that we ate during our lunch. We were so proud of ourselves that we started to encourage others to do the same because we knew we did the right thing and we wanted others to feel what we did in that moment. In school you can be yourself, and if you aren't yourself then you still haven't found yourself yet, but don't worry it's somewhere, floating around the halls of a fortress waiting to be found. You are the key to your own castle all the other ones are just bad copies. Find yourself. School is amazing once you do, you find the right people to be friends with, the right people to stay away from and the right people to gain as allies in this fight in this tough world. The tough world that everyone you know outside and in school have to face sometime in their lives.

You know that feeling of accomplishment that you achieve every once in a while? That feeling like you did the right thing? It's a feeling that people hold onto and don't want to let that go. People love that feeling so much they chase it and follow it everywhere it goes. It makes them do wonderful things to help the community, to feel like they helped someone who needed it. There are also people out there that do the right things just because they are genuinely good people. Those people are quite rare to find in your daily life, but when you do, hold on to them, and do not let them go. If they are good people you are a good person, you can recognize that what they are doing is good, and it could encourage you to do as good as well. Helping the community around is an amazing thing to do. It spreads smiles to your faces because your sense of empathy is so strong and the people you are helping benefit so much from what you do! From maybe donating one penny, to maybe buying a lollipop from a local stand to help those who need it, that small act of kindness does way more than you think. There are always tiny things you can do to help your community, something I did volunteer at Habitat for Humanity's ROCK THE BLOCK. It's an organization that helps renovate houses that need severe help, maybe help move a tree that had fallen on a rooftop, or maybe cleaning up the trash that could be littered on the ground. I think it's an amazing organization that helped people feel proud of their homes and where they live and not be so ashamed anymore. It sure was hard work but seeing the owners face at the end really did mean everything. Another thing that I do that you could do as well could be donating to Goodwill once a year. Being the person I am, I am always growing so it is only ordinary that I outgrow some old clothes. So at least once a year me and my family look into our closets and take out the things that are either too old or too small for us, and we donate them to places that need it. There are things that we have that we do not care for in a tiny bit, but someone you walk by in the street may think it's the most beautiful thing in the world. It's like that saying your trash may be someone else's treasure. So helping others in the tiniest bit may mean more than you think.

Being a good person doesn't affect your daily decision but it does affect the people who are around you. I want you to be your best self. Not the person people want you to be, Be the person that smiles back when you stare into a mirror. Love every part of yourself. I want you to love the dimples you have when you smile, love the strands of hair that reflect in the moonlight, that laugh, the life in your eyes when you're doing something you enjoy with all of your heart. Be kind to others, and don't forget yourself. Help others, give them a chance to get to know you. Make new friends. Be your best self. Help everyone around when they are in need of help. Be kind. Be strong. Be brave. I really do hope you find your key to your castle.