

2011-12 American Heritage Essay Contest

Carsyn Frey

First Place

I chose Jonas Salk for my American hero. Jonas Salk is an American hero because he found the vaccine for polio.

Jonas Salk was a doctor. Jonas Salk was born October 28, 1914 in New York City. He went to the New York school of medicine. He was the oldest son in his family. His full name was Jonas Edward Salk. He created the first working vaccine for polio. He first started working on the vaccine in Pittsburg (where he went to do research). In 1947 he was appointed director of the Virus Research Lab. The vaccine was tested on monkeys before any human was tested. They created the polio virus in test tubes. And they gave it to them. He also tested it on his volunteers, lab staff and his wife and kids also his self! And none of them even had the virus! It turned out that none of them had a bad reaction. In April 12, 1955 they had announced that the vaccine worked it was safe! He saved millions of people. He lived until he was 80 years old; he died on June 23, 1995.

He had a lot of accomplishments - I'll tell you some. Well he made the first working vaccine for Polio! It took him a while but he did he want threw many, many of working on the cure for 1947-1955. Also he was the director of Salk institutes which was his business. He received many honors including the congressional gold medal for his great achievements in medicine.

He is my hero because he cares about people getting better when they are sick and so do I. He saved many, many, many people - actually it was millions of people. Kids and adults that had polio. He was also a doctor, and doctors help me when I'm hurt or sick.

I chose Jonas Salk as my American hero. I picked Jonas Salk because I am amazed that he created the first working vaccine for polio, after so many failed.

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Brooke Weiffenbach

Runner-up

Mr. DeGrange is very special. He does a great job running the school. He is the best principle ever. Mr. DeGrange supports the school, he helps the school out when there is work to be done. One time I saw him wiping down tables in the lunch room.

He always treats everybody with respect. Mr. DeGrange treats everybody with respect when you talk to him. He always looks at you eye to eye and speaks to you in a soft voice and makes you happy. Like one time he helped out one of my classmates who was having a problem with a friend of mine. My friend got punched by another student. After he talked to Mr. DeGrange, my friend was not mad anymore. Mr. DeGrange helped him out. He always makes sure you are safe. He always gives us the best advice. Mr. DeGrange is the best leader.

Mr. DeGrange always makes sure we leave school with a great education. He comes to our class rooms a lot to make sure we are becoming better learners. Mr. DeGrange wants the best for the students at Liberty Elementary. I could not imagine our school with out him as our leader.

I spoke with Mr. DeGrange and asked him a few things about being a principal. He has been a principal for 27 years. He was a classroom teacher he became a principal. He became a principle to help kids out more. He thought being a teacher helps out kids why not be a principal. The thing he likes the most about being a principal is he gets to see kids working hard everyday.

I know Mr. DeGrange cares about his students. One day he took time off his busy schedule and came down to our classroom and watched some of my class mates do there project. Mr. DeGrange is my hero.

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Hanna Dufresne

Runner-up

One of my heroes was born in 1929, when black and white people were treated very differently from today. "I have a dream" was one of his very famous speeches that made others think that all humans should be treated fairly even if their skin color is not the same as theirs. They should be able to ride in the front of busses and go to the same schools. When he made speeches, he fought with his words, not his fists.

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will one day sit down together at the table of brotherhood" is only part of his "I have a dream" speech.

He was awarded a "Nobel Peace Prize" in 1964 for making a world of peace. My hero went to Memphis, Tennessee to meet with other civil rights members. He was staying at the Lorraine Motel and when he stepped out into their balcony for fresh air, he was assented by James Earl Ray. Many others thought that it was very wrong for James Earl Ray to do so. He was put in jail because of that.

Even after my hero died, his wife, Coretta King, carried on his dream of freedom for everyone. My hero is Martin Luther King Jr. because he changed a lot of people's lives, by making humanity better for everyone. He "tried to give his life serving others." He wanted to be remembered for feeding the hungry.

Now with all those changes that were made back then, black or white, men or women are treated the same even though we all are not the same in many ways. We are not the same even though we may share some similarities.

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Emily Day

Runner-up

I chose Frederick Douglass for my American hero. Frederick Douglass is my American hero because he was an American slave. He helped stop slavery.

Frederick Douglass was born in Talbot city Maryland. He was born a slave on February 1818. He was born a slave with his mom on a farm that sold Tobacco, corn, and wheat. Frederick Douglass taught his slave friends how to read, write, and to learn the alphabet. Frederick Douglass's owner always beat Frederick with a stick. But one time his owner beat him with the stick, but this time Frederick fought back and the owner never hurt Frederick again. When Frederick Douglass was in his teens he began to teach in a Sunday school, which was later forcibly shut down by cruel whites.

In 1845 Frederick Douglass wrote an autobiography called A narrative life of Frederick Douglass an American slave written by himself. When he was a teen he organized illegal schools to help other slaves learn to read, write, and learn the alphabet.. He would speak in front a whole lot of white people and slaves to stop slavery. When Frederick Douglass was older he was allowed to shake Abraham Lincoln's hand. Frederick Douglass shook Abraham Lincoln's hand because he ended slavery during the civil war.

Frederick Douglass is my hero because he helped slaves stay calm, relaxed, and comfortable when they were going through very, very hard times during slavery. Another reason why he is my hero is that he taught his slave friends how to read, write, and the alphabet.

I chose Frederick Douglass as my American hero. I chose Frederick Douglass as my American hero because I am very interested to learn about American slaves. Also sense Frederick Douglass is an American slave, and that is why I chose Frederick Douglass as my American hero.

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Karly Fink

Runner-up

My favorite American hero is Abraham Lincoln. He was born on February 12, 1809 and raised in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Lincoln's nickname was honest Abe because he was always honest. Lincoln's grandfather who was a farmer was killed by Indians when he and his family moved to Kentucky. When Lincoln's grandfather was killed his father was four. Lincoln's father never went to school but learned to be a carpenter. In 1816 the Lincolns moved from Kentucky to Indiana. Abe got married to Mary Todd. She was born on December 13, 1818. In 1856 Lincoln ran for congress but he did not get elected. In 1860 Lincoln was elected for president. In 1860 the civil war began and lasted for three years. In 1863 the war ended and Lincoln freed the slaves. In 1863 Lincoln also gave a speech called Lincoln's Gettysburg address. He gave this speech in Gettysburg Pennsylvania and it soon became famous. In 1863 Lincoln and Mary Todd went to see a play and when Lincoln was sitting in the top row he got shot by John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln was taken to the hotel across the street and died the next day.

Lincoln was famous for many reasons but he's most important for freeing the slaves. He is also important for leading the United States through the civil war and he proved that democracy can be a way to provide a ruler and help keep the states together. Some people remember Lincoln as just the 16th president but he was and did much more than that.

Lincoln is my hero because he freed the slaves and if he did not become president then I would not have some of my friends today. He is also my hero because he helped so many and did great things for the whole country and the world.