

## **Renessa Drainer, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, JCHS**

“A person is not born with character but through events that come into their lives”-author unknown. The world today is beginning to lack a very important trait needed in everyday life, *cooperation*. Cooperation is putting aside one’s differences for the task at hand. With the use of this trait, the world would be a better place. In order to do things right, one sometimes has to do them the hard way. Sometimes the hard times are character-building opportunities in disguise. Whether it is getting along with a substitute teacher for a day or a chemistry partner for a year, it is things like this that we as people need to overcome. We all know that people are very strong-minded and do not like to take advice from anyone else. Not using the trait of cooperation in this case could lead one down a very long, hard road.

Nowadays there are more and more students who like to rebel when it comes to cooperating with teachers. For instance, if a teacher notices that a student is failing to reach his/her own potential, a teacher will do anything to motivate him or her. A teacher may become very apathetic when a student refuses to cooperate. It would not hurt for the student to just listen. Who knows, maybe he may learn a valuable lesson that may be needed in the near future!

I know from experience that it is especially hard to cooperate with one’s parents. For example, if my mom tells me that I cannot go to a party, the best thing is to just accept it. If I do not and try to argue, then I may make things worse. I just need to go beyond myself and cooperate. In the end, my parents are there to guide me down the right path. They only push me to my potential because they love me.

I think that my parents are a great example of how to use cooperation in a difficult situation such as divorce. We all know that being divorced can be very hectic. I am very grateful that God has instilled the wonderful trait of cooperation in my parents’ lives. If He did not, my family would be torn apart by now. Sure,

they get into arguments once in awhile, but that is nothing compared to what it could be. My parents have put aside their differences in order to raise my brother and me to our best potential.

With the effort of using cooperation, our world could be affected tremendously. Many of the best things that we have accomplished could not have been achieved if the people involved did not have the trait of cooperation at hand. Cooperation has the ability to solve many ongoing problems in our world today. Excellence starts with the leaders who exhibit a good and strong character. The wise words of Bertrand Russel still hold true, "The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation." It is through cooperation rather than conflict, that one's greatest success will be derived. I believe that with cooperation we can change the world.