

~ SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES ME ~

*A speech by Olivia Simonson (Age 12)
Given May 30th, 2008 to her 6th grade classmates*

Yesterday I was lying in bed, held tight in my mom's arms. My mom is the person who inspires me. She has had cancer for six years and is an amazing caring and loving mother and at her work is a fantastic financial advisor. Her name is Andrea.

Two qualities that my mom has that go together are commitment and determination. She's had these qualities in her business accomplishments at Morgan Stanley and her many honors definitely show her commitment and determination to her work.

Mom has cancer and may die, but through her journey she has had the strength and courage to beat back the disease again and again. Every time she's in the hospital or at home and extremely sick, she, me, my five year old brother and my dad have a thing called "duke's up, and she puts up her fists. She is strong when she has no strength, yet somehow finds the strength to move and talk. She has courage when she faces the disease and fights it with all she has.

A final quality my mom has is love. Lately she hasn't really been able to talk, but whenever she can the first words that she says are "I love you". She has done things for me and taught me things that no one else ever could.

My mom has affected my life by showing me the qualities I just said: determination, commitment, strength, courage and love. She has taught me how to be a good and loving person, she has taught me not to make stupid mistakes, to be a hard worker and to fight. She is my inspiration.

