

Dear Lorenzo,

My name is Student 5. I am 15 years old and live in Wappingers Falls, New York. I have been playing soccer for about 10 years. I also horseback ride, which I have been doing for about 8 years. I love it, sitting up on the horse, riding, having the wind blow at your face. It makes me feel like all my troubles have gone away. I play clarinet in our school band. I am in the 9th grade and I attend Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School. I am in all honors level classes, and I take an AP, or Advanced Placement, college level World History.

Your story is very inspiring. It has taught me to appreciate exactly what I have, and to understand that not everyone may have the same opportunities and chances that I do. We have recently watched “Lorenzo’s Oil” in my Biology class. I have found it very interesting and motivating. You have an amazing soul and heart. It is amazing that you overcame the hardest of the disease. You have taught me to never keep fighting, and to never give up. I cannot imagine how you must feel, but I do know that if I were you, I would not be able to do the amazing things that you have done. You are truly amazing, you can withstand amazing feats. From what I saw of the movie, your parents were amazing as well. They fought for your life, and never gave up. They never stopped hoping. They never lost faith. They helped you through. For that, Lorenzo, your story is truly inspiring.

Good luck and best wishes,

Student 5

Dear Lorenzo Odone,

Hello! My name is Student 3. I am a freshman at Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls New York. Some things about myself are I play flute and piano and I love music. Just like you. In Biology class we recently watch the movie Lorenzo's Oil. I did not know that was based on a true story until the end of the movie. I just want to let you know I think you are an amazing human being. You have been through so much that some people just do not really understand. My mom was sick when I was little with breast cancer. I know what your family must have been going through to see so many ups and downs in your health condition. Your parents made a fantastic choice to further go on with your treatment. Even though I will never have the honor to meet them in person, they seem like such nice people. That must have helped you a lot when you were sick knowing that you have family right by your side no matter what happens. I found myself crying at many parts of the movie. I had never even heard of ALD before we watched the movie. It taught me how it is such an awful disease and how it can strike and aggress so quickly. I am very sorry to hear about your mother. At least she passed on with the knowledge that she did so much to make a better life for her son. I'm amazed on how much this film touched me. It made me want to look

into ALD. It is a disease that I believe a lot more people should know about.

Once again I wan to say now happy I am to hear your doing well. All my best wishes, and God Bless.

Sincerely Yours,

Student 3

Lorenzo's Oil

"Lorenzo's Oil" is a movie that is based on a true story about a little boy named Lorenzo Odone who is diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy, or ALD. ALD is a genetic metabolic disorder, where the myelin on the nerve fibers in the brain is lost and the adrenal gland degenerates. This leads to progressive neurological disability and death. Throughout the movie, Lorenzo's parents try to discover ways to cure him from ALD.

While watching "Lorenzo's Oil", I learned a lot about ALD. I learned what it is, why it is caused, and what it does. Before viewing this movie, I had never heard of this disorder. During the movie, I felt frustrated and angry. It frustrated me to see that certain parents are not willing to help their child with ALD or try reasonable and medically sounding treatments. As the Odone family fought for Lorenzo, it made me happy and proud. It also made me want to help Lorenzo and try assist in finding and new treatment or cure for adrenoleukodystrophy. It was inspiring and honorable. I was very upset to see Lorenzo's condition get worse but as the Odone's made progress in their treatments, Lorenzo began to become stable.

After viewing "Lorenzo's Oil", I wish Lorenzo was able to regain his nerve movements that he lost and his speech. Thankfully, he regained his sight and can wiggle his fingers, after the Odone's discovery of an oil that helps prevent ALD. This was a miracle oil. Lorenzo became stable and returned to normal body levels even though he is denied of full mobility or his speech. Lorenzo's Oil, the miracle oil, today, prevents boys with ALD from suffering this horrible disorder. It saves kids all over the

world and lets them live normal lives.

Lorenzo Odone was and still is very brave. Himself and his parents are heroes to those with and without ALD and hopefully inspire more people to help find a cure for adrenoleukodystrophy or take part in helping the foundation such as the Myelin Project. I know it has inspired me.

Student 4

Lorenzo's Oil Letter

In the movie "Lorenzo's Oil," the interests of various characters are often counter, and the stalemate that results leaves the viewer in contemplation concerning with whom they agree. The most common conclusion is that it is impossible to take one side or the other. The only way one can do so is if one of the motivations -- the causes -- are personal, as is the case for the characters in the movie.

The motivation of Lorenzo's mother is to help Lorenzo, at the very least, comfortable. She accepts the inevitability of Lorenzo's death whereas his father does not, and the result is a difference in their concerted efforts. The mother's goal is to do the best she can for Lorenzo while he is still alive. Lorenzo's mother submits herself at one point, telling Lorenzo to "run to baby Jesus as fast as [he] can" on what she has realized as his inevitable succumbing to ALD. However, the father is much more persistent and his goal is to continue fighting for Lorenzo's life. The motivation of each parent is in accord with their submission to Lorenzo's fate.

The greatest conflict in the film arises with the conflicting interests of the protagonists, Lorenzo's parents, and the doctors – who are not necessarily antagonists except in the sense of differing motivations. The propelling force behind the scientists' action is the advancement of medicine, profit, and their reputation among the medical community. The disinterest of the science industry is described succinctly by one doctor: more children choke on french fries each year than die of ALD. As Lorenzo's parents are deeply and personally engaged with the issue at hand, that being the life of their child, and the medical industry being as dispassionate as industries by definition are, conflict is bound to arise. In the scene in which Lorenzo is examined by a room of doctors, there is no doubt that the doctors placed precedence on the scientific aspect of ALD, rather than the personal aspect. It is an interesting dynamic, to say the least, that those personally involved are summarily dependent on those most dispassionate to their cause, particularly in medicine.

Student 2

Dear Lorenzo,

March 13, 2007

Hi, my name is Student. I'm currently attending Roy C. Ketcham High school in Poughkeepsie, New York. I am 14 years old but on Month Day I will be 15. I am so excited!!!! I have a little sister who just turned 4 on March 11th and she's very happy about it to!! My favorite activities are dancing, going on the computer, and watching movies. High school is okay I guess I like my friends but I really need to get my grades up! But aside from that I'm doing really well!

Well my biology class saw the movie Lorenzo's Oil. Which I thought was amazing. From what I saw that you went through you were and still are a very strong individual. You have some amazing parents; they stood by you and never gave up. And even though they weren't scientist or have any kind of medical training they insisted on finding a cure for ALD. And they did, and there achievements have not only helped you to live a long life but have helped millions of other young boys with ALD to live long lives.

I am glad to have been able to b exposed to your story and learn a little bit about you in biology. I hope your doing well continue to live a long life.

Sincerely,
Student