

## Sample Essay: Growing Up in Brooklyn

My father thought the world of me. I guess I thought the world of him too. I admired him no matter how many times he would disappear, leaving my mother to worry about how we were going to buy food or keep the lights on. He was constantly in my thoughts. Day after day I would listen for his step outside the door or imagine it was his voice I could hear singing outside my window. Sometimes it would be his voice. He would come home and ask me to iron his shirt. He would promise me that things would be different. He would promise to become a part of my life. Of all my memories of growing up in Brooklyn, there are only a handful that involve him.

Despite his long absences and failed promises, it was perhaps my father who has most inspired me throughout my life. His parents immigrated to America from Ireland and he grew up with a firm belief in all that the American dream had to offer. Despite the deaths of his three brothers, he held fast to his dreams and married my mother at the young age of 19. Gifted with a handsome face, winning personality and an angelic voice, it seemed nothing could stop him. Over time, life began to overtake him and he sunk deeply into alcoholism. He would tell me I could do anything and make me promise to become all he had failed to be. I promised I would. I believed I could do it because he believed in me.

Growing up in an immigrant family in the midst of Brooklyn, I have been no stranger to poverty. As a way of escape, I took to my books. My books opened new worlds for me. I knew, someday, I too wanted to open worlds for others. My father inspired me to be a dreamer and gave me the audacity to believe I could achieve my dreams. My dream is to be a writer, perhaps a great one. In order to achieve this dream, I must establish a solid educational foundation.

From childhood, I have approached school with perseverance. With little resources and little help from home, achieving even my high school education was, at times, a challenge.

Despite my obstacles, I have gained acceptance into Georgia State University and I am now faced only with the obstacle of financing my education. Receiving this scholarship would enable me to not only fulfill the dreams I have held for many years but would honor the memory of my father and the legacy of inspiration he left me.