

Part 2

Achievement #1:

Ever since I was in kindergarten, public speaking had been my passion. When I was younger, I attended drama classes and would perform everywhere – from my living room to clubhouses! I never had stage fright; rarely do I experience a fear of speaking in public. When I found that I could compete in Speech Festivals in different languages, I jumped at the chance. Attending the festivals has made me so passionate about public speaking! To share my thoughts through a speech or to express my emotions through a poem was a marvellous way to enhance my seven-year-old self. Throughout the next three years since Year 1, I would spend hours and hours memorising the poems, noting parts to lift my voice and training my vocal **chords** **ords** to show the emotion I felt while performing. Then, disaster struck. A week before my competition, I was brought into **the** hospital for a major case of food poisoning and I stayed there for five days. This was my biggest and most challenging competition – I couldn't just lie in **the** hospital and miss the entire thing! I begged the doctor to release me in time. Even though I was so sick I couldn't eat or drink, I practised like crazy – and I ended up getting a third place that day. Public speaking didn't only make me more confident speaking in front of people and enhanced my reading skills, but taught me that “hope is being able to see all the light despite the darkness” -Desmond Tutu. And so many people in my life gave me light like my parents and teacher, who helped me get through this! She was hard but encouraging, which

only made me realise there is no free lunch and if you want it, you have to work for it.

Achievement #2

As aforementioned, I adore reading. My parents used to say I would “suck the information out of the book like a bloodthirsty vampire”. What I’m passionate about reading is how you can learn writing skills from different authors. For example, J.K. Rowling’s books like the famous Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts taught me to write fantasy and fiction – with a hidden objective and a dark sense of irony. Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson and Heroes of Olympus led me to inject some humour into my writing and **picking** pick up on characters’ thoughts in first and third-person views. It’s so amazing how an author can seem to show you what’s happening in your mind’s eye through words, not pictures!

I think reading’s a passion, never a chore. After I slowly devoured every book on the shelf, I moved on to autobiographies like Life, on the Line by Grant Achatz, and On Writing by Stephen King. Like Anissa Trisdianty said, “Reading is dreaming with open eyes”. Reading can make you feel blissful, peaceful, or enraged, sorrowful. Whenever I’m sad or happy, I read – immersed in my own little world. In fact, I won my school’s reading competition as the student who read the most in my grade, and I’m so grateful that my parents gave me many opportunities to develop my love of reading. I know my overstuffed bookshelf wasn’t cheap, so thank you so much for your support!

Achievement #3

I love writing stories. When I was six, I “made” my first “book”- a crude little thing, seven crumpled pieces of paper stapled together, with colourful illustrations and the words “by Jaslyn, published by mommy” on the cover. I remember the feeling of pride as I set it on my bookshelf. My mother made copies of it and I remember giving it to the librarian, who displayed it on her desk with a smile. Finally, I remember it was called, “How to Write a Book”. At age seven to eight, I was typing a draft called “The Mouse’s Wedding Retold” as it was an old story retold by me. Age nine, I was intently writing “A Whole New World – In the Depths of Greek Myths” and “The Ninja Quest”. Age 10 – “Diary of a Zillionaire Empress”. So many short stories surrounded my childhood, and looking back they weren’t just books, but memories. **In From** first grade to now, almost fifth grade, I enrolled in John Hopkins Centre for Talented Youth. After undergoing an exam, I got good results and was accepted! CTY has allowed me to interact with people from all over the world and connect through forums about different books like Dragon Tales and Robot Encounters. This course **both** enhanced my reading and writing, so a big thank you to my instructors that helped me learn more and more about everything! I’m grateful for the chance to join the program so I could interact with other people worldwide!

This is an inspirational journey, you followed your passion and achieved so much. More power to you!

I would suggest you be more concise and avoid extra details. Otherwise, you did a marvellous job.

Keep up the hard work, and keep chasing your dreams!

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