The rise of the forlorn man

As the wind howled and the crickets chirped, a skinny young man adorned in ragged clothes and dying bugs laid on the expansive parkland. He had no life in his eyes, not even a twinkle. His hair was in bad condition. It looked like a bird’s nest, but his skin was the worst feature. There were maggots crawling out of his face. The man seemed hopeless and near death.

Suddenly the man saw a blinding beam of natural light, and then he heard thundering footsteps. In the direction the light stood a stocky well-dressed wealthy young man. He marched into the scene, spreading hope to the hopeless and authority to those who were present. His well fitted designer suit and shiny shoes added depth to his character. The golden Rolex on his left wrist when reflecting the light showed every intricate detail of luxury. Behind the wealthy man shone the rays of the morning sun, hinting at a universe of fortune and power.

The man in the suit approached the lifeless man, examined his condition, and made a phone call on his latest model titanium Apple iPhone . Soon ambulances rushed to the scene and then they picked the man up.

The man woke up in the hospital, all clean and healthy. Upon opening his eyes, he saw the well-dressed man who saved his life.

“Why did you help me?” the man asked.

“Its because I believe you will pay forward one day, and you looked like you were dying” the wealthy man replied as he pulled out his pinky.

“Pinky promises you will pay the favor”

The man then proceeded to take his pinky out too as they pinky promised like two giggling teenage boys.

When the man got out of hospital, the first thing he did was get a job. It wasn’t a very high paying job, but he was making money. He worked hard, hoping to create a better life so that he could honor the promise he made with the man who saved his life in the parkland.

Soon he left this job and got a better one that allowed him to make a positive impact on the world. A cheerful smile spread across his face at the end of each working day. A playful sparkle shone in his eyes as he walked through the door frame of the building where he worked, acknowledging the effort he made today to improve himself.

The man eventually became a successful businessman and his life had completely improved for the better for these past few years.

One day many years later, the man went on a winter evening stroll and saw a homeless man who appeared no different to his appearance many years before when his life was saved by a kind stranger.

The homeless man was cloaked in torn clothes and swarming flies. He was shaking from the cold. His skin was covered in dirt dotted with unhealed injuries and his lips were turning arctic blue. Despite this, his eyes had a slight spark of hope.

Beneath his scarred face, was a slight star of hope, a hope that could be destroyed, yet saved. Something dark had crushed that hope but wasn’t able to finish the job. His soul must be holding on to the cusp of belief that his life would change.

 He seemed like the state he was in when he was homeless, then he remembered the words of the man who saved his life

“I believe you will pay forward one day”

Then he did exactly what the man who saved his life did to him. Took him to the hospital.

At the hospital, the homeless man woke up.

The man recognized his face, it was the man who saved him!

“I knew you would keep your promise” the homeless man said

“What happened?” asked the man

“When I tried to pay your hospital bill, it was all the money I had, so I paid and lived on the streets” the homeless man replied.

“How about we can be roommates? So, you will not be homeless anymore?” The man planned

The “homeless” man agreed and the left hospital.

As they walked through the city streets, the sun rose from below the earth, casting golden rays of sunlight across the area, while the birds swooped leftover food. It was almost like the sun was giving a positive sign that this was a new life for both these men and their friendship.

Emily Young, Grade 6