

## Family Speech

We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding the shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing it to heal in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.

Honourable judges, teachers and fellow classmates.

These are the words of Erma Bombeck, about "The Family." The word family means "a group of people that love and support each other. Now family might not just be your relatives. It could be your friends, or your pets at home.

In my family, I have a father, a mother, and a brother. My dad is a great politician and gives really good sports advice. My mom is a wonderful speaker and gives awesome life advice. My brother is really fun to play with, and gives..... bad advice. And then there's me, the baby of the family, and I get plenty of advice.

My family loves to spend time together. We go camping every summer, and ski every winter. We go on family trips, and have family hot tubs. My parents come to all my sports, and meet me at the finish line. We even have family meetings. My dad always starts it off by saying "I'm calling this meeting to order, and I am the chairman."

To end off the week, we have Friday night pasta followed by a family game!

Speaking of pasta, did you know... studies show that children who eat with their parents, have healthier eating habits and have healthier diets though out each day? Also, eating dinner as a family causes lower rates of obesity, lower teenage pregnancy rates, higher academic rates and builds great memories.

I have many great memories from my past. When I was in pre-school, my dad and I brought a real live piglet in for show-and-tell. On Christmas, my aunt and uncle bought a 25 pound turkey for only 8 people. That's one big bird!!

Not only do I have memories from my family at home, I also have memories with my family here at school. Like the day when I forgot where an outdoor thermometer was used... duh!! OR... the memories we had with Mr. Colbourne, a wonderful teacher who made learning really fun!

I also have many great memories with my brother, but we have had our arguments too. Then my brother went to London for 2 years. I never knew how much I would miss him. I realised that it was not worth the time, and effort to fight, because I knew he would soon be off to university or college and we would have wasted all that time taking each other for granted.

Hey, I have a question for you. How many times have your parents made you dinner or drove you somewhere, and how many times have you said "thank you?" Often, we take our family for granted. Yes... we all do it, but I think that if I

did something special for someone else, and they didn't appreciate it, I would be pretty upset.

Could you imagine life without your family? Going home, and no one is there, but they're never coming back. What would you do next? You would probably wish that you spent more time with them. I know that I would miss my family terribly. That's what happened to the people on the Titanic, and in the Tsunami. They didn't see their family again. That's why we should cherish the moments that we have with our family.

In the words of Paul Pearshall "Our most basic instinct is not for survival but for family. Most of us would give our own life for the survival of a family member, yet we lead our daily life too often as if we take our family for granted."

So please, take the time to appreciate and thank your family!

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