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Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

An Unforgettable Night

The night was very dark and stormy when disaster struck. A fire in my home made me realize that the most important things in life cannot be replaced. I experienced the sheer terror of fearing for my family. I had never felt these emotions before because I had never come close to losing something dear to me. This night definitely set my priorities straight and showed me the importance of family.

The incident occurred at about five o'clock in the morning. I was in a deep slumber when a loud sound woke me. I did not know it at the time, but that loud noise had been lightning striking a tree right outside my window. I shot up in bed immediately and had an eerie feeling that something was very wrong.

As I got out of bed and ran downstairs, I heard the smoke detector blaring throughout the house. I hurried to my parents' room to find that they had already determined it to be a false alarm. We deactivated the alarm, and I walked into the hall leading to the foyer en route to my room.

The sight that met my eyes as I turned the corner is one I will never forget. The entire two-story foyer was filled with black smoke. I could feel the heat, but I had no idea where it was coming from. I hollered for my dad and instructed my mom to call 9-1-1.

As my dad turned the corner, he yelled for me to get out. My eyes were already burning badly, so I dropped to my hands and knees and crawled to the front door. Once outside, I paced

back and forth as I waited for my parents to emerge from the smoky doorway. It seemed as if it was taking them forever. As I waited for them, my mind raced, and I realized how much they meant to me. I breathed a deep sigh of relief when I saw them emerge from the smoke.

As the fire grew, I knew that books, pictures, and furniture were burned and gone forever. However, I was calm because what I really needed was right there with me. Later, as I sifted through the ashes, I knew that all the burned items could be replaced and that this night could have been much worse. In the days following, I saw my family unite to get through this emotional time. The fire may have burned material things, but it did not touch my family's will.

The fire was devastating and damaging. Many things were lost, yet I gained much from that experience. That night left us with many problems and numerous trials to come. Even so, I knew that as long as I had my family that we could make it through just about anything.