

The Girl Named Laura
By Zariah Guerrero, 5th Grade

Once, there was a girl named Laura. She was a beautiful 4th grader. She had tan skin, curly, shoulder-length hair, and deep, rosy-pink lips. She was skinny and one of the tallest girls in her class. She loved to wear dresses and skirts, especially on Sundays when her family went to church. Laura had two sisters and three brothers who she loved very much. She loved them so much she would take the blame for doing something bad so that her brothers and sisters didn't get into trouble.

Laura always had fun singing, dancing, and jumping on the bed with them. Laura was smart and goofy. All her friends remember her pulling her frizzy curls out of the ponytail in the front and making them stand straight up like a troll to make the class laugh. Anyone that knew Laura would say that she had the biggest smile that lit up any room she walked into. She had this warmth about her that made all other kids want to be her friend.

Laura got into trouble at school a lot because she would pick flowers on the way to school or on the way home from different houses and make the school's neighbors angry. But Laura didn't pick the flowers for herself, she would give those flowers to her teachers, kids at the school, and parents—whoever she thought needed to smile. She also loved to give hugs to everyone. Even strangers! She just wanted everyone to know they were loved. And that's not all! Laura also had a big heart for animals. If she would find a homeless cat, she would take it home and any ticks, fleas, or disease it had, and hide it in her closet just so it felt loved.

One day, Laura and her older sister went on a 20-minute walk to the dollar store to spend their allowance. Allowance is money you get when you do your chores. Chores are things that you have to do around your house every day like make your bed and pick up dog poop. Laura and her brothers and sisters were used to walking everywhere alone. It wasn't scary back then like it is now. Kids used to walk to school, the store, and the library all by themselves!

After shopping for a while, the girls decided to start walking back home so they were not late for their curfew. Curfew is a time you have to be home so your parents don't get mad at you. On their way home, they raced each other from one light post to the next. They crossed the only street with a streetlight which was about five minutes from their house. But then, about one minute later, the girls had to go around some weeds that grew over the side of the road. Laura's older sister went first and was holding Laura's hand when she felt Laura pull away. When she turned, she saw something big and white pass her and then saw Laura leaping in the air.

Laura's sister thought she was playing around so she kept telling her to get up so they can get home before their mom gets mad. But Laura didn't get up. Instead, Laura smiled at her sister and rolled her eyes back like she would do when she played around. Her sister kept telling her to get up but she didn't and that's when she realized something was wrong with Laura. Her sister ran into the middle of the street and turned around screaming for someone to help her sister. Eventually, people came and tried to save her. They did CPR on Laura but nothing helped. The ambulance finally showed up and Laura's sister heard someone say "she's breathing!" before they took her to the hospital.

When Laura's family showed up at the hospital the doctors walked them into a room. That's where the doctors told them that Laura didn't make it. Laura had passed away. "Passed away" is a nice way to say that someone has died. The doctor told them that Laura had injuries inside her body because the big white thing the sister saw was actually a white cement truck. A cement truck is pretty much the same thing as a semi-truck but with cement in the back of it. That truck hit her with its front bumper. When Laura's sister saw her leaping, that was the truck

hitting her. After the doctor gave them the news, the family saw the light that always brightened up every room go dark with the doctor's words.

That night, Laura's mom and dad held her brothers and sisters extra close. They all cried together and laughed together as they remembered all of their moments with Laura. "Only nine years old she was," her mom said, "but she was a gift that brightened our world and made every person she knew or didn't know feel loved, and made many many people laugh. We will miss her smile and never be able to see her or talk to her again or share future moments with her, but we will always remember the good times with her, always remember her love, and be grateful for the gift of time we had with Laura."

And Laura's family has done just that. They remember the good times with Laura, the funny times, and the light she brought. They know one day they will see Laura again. They often imagine her being in charge of the lions and cats and taking care of the gardens of flowers. Her sister that was with her that day says, "Laura was light when she was here, and even though she left us here all those years ago, I can now see her light never left, it just got stronger. Laura taught us how to love unconditionally just like she did."

The end.