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### I Am, Who I am.

Your identity changing over time is what I believe can make you, you. My identity as an eighteen-year-old is not going to be the same as it was when I was five, it changes over time. If you asked me at five what my identity was, I would have asked you what that word meant. But being asked that as an eighteen-year-old I would start by saying that my identity starts with being a daughter, a sister, a friend, a girl, and a student. We pull from each category of basic parts of an identity to make our own. Although those are basic definitions of who I am, each one goes into a deeper meaning of what my Identity is. Right now, at eighteen I want to make myself a place I can always come back to, no matter how far my life takes me and that starts with my Identity.

Family plays a significant role in every person's identity. For me, being a daughter and a sister is a part of my identity that I cherish. I grew up with a mom, a dad, and a younger sister. I count myself incredibly lucky to have parents who are still together and who I have a healthy relationship with. Thinking of my relationship with them reminds me of the difference between how my parents shaped my Identity and how Jaed Coffin's parents shaped him. Coffin was scared to have his identity be like his father's, while I am the opposite, I want my parents to shape who I am today. My parents will always play a huge part in who I am. They gave me a home that I was able to grow up in and go to college far away because I knew I could always go back. Having that level of support added to my identity today, and without that, I believe things

would be different for me. My family gave me a sense of belonging, knowing no matter how far I go I can go back to them.

I always had two good friends in my life. One of them being my sister, but the other one being our best friend, Anna, who completed our trio. They are the only people who know me better than I know myself. We survive off of having strong friendships, It is what makes us feel less alone. It provides a sense of belonging other than your family. So why wouldn't it be a part of our identity? In the movie "The Lorax" The Lorax says, "A tree falls the way it leans; be careful which way you lean" Now it might seem weird to insert a quote from a cartoon movie. But this quote relates to your Identity. If you surround yourself with friends who are down a path that is not necessarily a good one, you are likely to lean in the direction they are in. But, if you surround yourself with the opposite, leaning the way they lean won't be a bad thing. No matter what way you learn it will become a part of your Identity. So, think about what The Lorax says, "be careful which way you lean."

A part of my Identity that I love the most is being a woman. There is a standard in the world that women should act a certain way, wear certain clothes, do certain jobs, and most importantly be mothers. But what happens when we reach out of those standards and create our own? We create our own Identity. In Tina Fey's "Confessions of a Juggler" In this reading, she talks about the stress of being a mother, while also working, and the expectations that come with those two roles. Fey is constantly asked "How do you juggle it all" Being a working mom, questions like these are commonly asked of women. But does a working dad ever get asked "How do you juggle it all"? Fey also talks about how she loves working and she loves being a mom, but there is an expectation that you can only choose one. But if both are part of your Identity, why should

you have to choose? The short answer is you should not have to. Women should not have to have their identity created by the standard of the world around them. We create it ourselves.

We all have that one personality, the one that we may or may not like about ourselves. But in the end, it is what parts of our personality we show to others. The similarity between Identity and personality is how both develop over time and change over time. Your personality is shaped by what you show to others and how others perceive you. You have the power to change how your personality affects others and how others see your personality. But your identity is not about changing what you went through in life or how it affected you, it is what you make of it in the end. In the reading "My Father, Out to Sea" Jaed Coffin wonders throughout his life if he is going to leave like his father did, essentially "Going out to sea". It is in his identity to leave when his family life gets tough, and he feels himself drifting farther away. But he realizes that his father is just one part of his identity. He still has the other part, which is his connection to his mom. When he feels himself drifting away, he pulls himself back in and stays. That part of his identity creates Jaed's personality. Just from the reading, you can tell that his identity shaped a part of his personality as a loyal person. So, in the end, identity and personality have differences but both have a part in who you are today.

