

I was attempting open gym's to get prepared for the upcoming season. I was doing pretty great. Then out of nowhere my dad took off again and immediately my step-mom started drinking again. She was to the point where she was so messed up that she couldn't even function. I have a 4 year old sister who lives there and I took care of her when nobody else would. After my dad was gone for about a week my step-mom was accusing me of stealing her cent money out of her purse when I didn't take a thing from her. She kicked me out, so I just stayed away. I stayed at my friend's house with only a tee shirt, and a pair of jeans. I tried going back several times to get the things I needed for school but my dad was gone and my stepmom wouldn't answer the door. All I was trying to do was go to school. I came to the conclusion that nothing was going to change unless I took action myself. I called my dad's parole officer and told him my situation and he said my dad had a warrant. I finally got ahold of my step mom and went and got a duffel bag full of clothes. At some point my dad

My name is Cameron  
Lanier. I am 15 years old and  
attended South Umpqua High School  
before transferring to this school.  
I have been to three different  
schools this year already. I started  
the year at Douglas High School,  
but my dad decided it wasn't working  
out. After about a month at Douglas  
I was transferred to South Umpqua.  
Despite everything that happens in  
my family I still try my best to do  
good in school and play as many sports  
as possible.

My mom passed away when  
I was about 10 months old so I  
never really knew her, my dad has  
been on drugs since he was a teenager.  
He would always leave me with my  
drunk step-mom for weeks at a time  
then he would come back after a couple  
of weeks and sleep for days at a  
time. He would always act like nothing  
ever happened, he thought I didn't  
know what he was doing. I started  
realizing more of what was going  
on when I was like 6 or 7.

Anyways, when the year  
started everything was going smoothly.  
School was going good and my dad  
had been clean for about 4 months.  
When I transferred to South Umpqua

had been back home and destroyed pretty much all of my belongings. I was at least able to get my clothes and school supplies.

Finally after about 4 weeks I got in touch with my aunt Paula and moved down here with her. I got enrolled in school and am doing everything I can to catch up on the month of school I missed. Everything is going pretty smoothly. And finally everything is going great. I plan to graduate here and play as many sports as possible since high school is an opportunity and it only takes a small chunk of your life so I want to make the best of it.

I really need this hardship because all I want to do is be a teenager and take advantage of the fact that this may be the only time in my life where I have the opportunity to do these things, and participate in school sports.

Sincerely,

Camron M Lanier