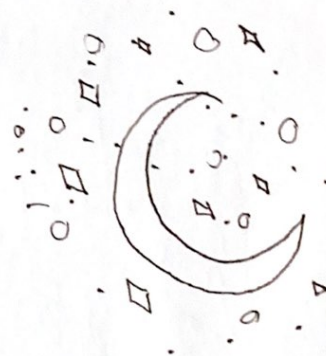


ME ANGEL AND



ADA ASKIN-TERRY

Dear reader.

This magazine represents who I am as a person. I talk about how I have learned to be more empathetic towards others. This magazine shows off my passions and ambitions. I talk about setbacks I have had. I wrote about a learning experience for me and how it changed me as a person

PASSION

I have been figure skating for around ten years now. I think the reason I am so passionate about it is because the skill sets you gain you can take into your everyday life. One of the most notable skills I have gained in my years of skating is the ability to be patient not only with myself but with my peers. While this is something some people might think is a little thing or something you can gain through just about anything you do, the type of patience I am talking about can really only be acquired through a sport. This goes for the growth mindset too. This is something that I have really struggled with but just recently I looked back on videos of me skating as a 12 year old and realized just how much I have improved. I have spent hours upon hours working on jumps and spins. Every time I have tried a new thing I have embarrassed myself, I have gotten concussions and even fallen on my head in front of around 100 people. My coach has always told me to get up, dust myself off and try again. This is a piece of advice I have taken into my everyday life. I am now not afraid to try new things and when I mess up I am able to move forward and try to improve my skill.

I started skating around the age of three or four. I had so much energy as a little kid that it just started out to get some energy out. I went to public lessons at my rink every single Saturday. I eventually made it a goal to become a coach. I became a member of the rink and practiced around three times a week and if I needed to I would go in the mornings before school. Eventually around the age of 9 I did my first competition and placed third. While I was disappointed I didn't get first or second place, I didn't let it discourage me. The next setback I had was when the pandemic hit and I could not go to the rink for three months. When I got back I noticed that I lost a lot of skill and I honestly felt like quitting at times. A few months later my coach passed away and I spent weeks and weeks away from the rink because I couldn't be there without

feeling sad. I kept going though. I wanted to reach my goal of becoming a coach and helping little kids learn how to skate. Just last year I became a coach and it was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in skating. I did not stop there though. I have kept going and made immense improvements in my skating since then.

I remember being a little kid and watching all the older kids at the rink doing big jumps and spins and I wanted to be just like them. This has been part of the biggest motivation to keep skating. A bit after this I did my first performance. A moment I will never forget is standing in the middle of the ice after I finished performing, in my ending pose and hearing the whole crowd clapping. Figure skating is and will continue to be one of my biggest passions. The sport has not only shaped me as a person but also taught me about who I am as a person.

Vignette

This story actually starts around seven years ago. When I was in 2nd grade, I went to my sleepaway camp for the first time. This camp is special because of their values. Camp stomping ground teaches and practices something called radical empathy. This is essentially a way to problem solve that gives people space to learn from their mistakes instead of punishing them. They also have a problem solving technique called the circle system. The circle system is basically where you get the people in conflict and sit them down with a mediator to check in.

A couple years ago I went to camp and saw that my whole cabin was my camp friend group and another girl I didn't know. I walk in and she is the only one in there. I said hi and tried to talk to her but she shut me down. She said she didn't wanna be there and her mom made her come. I thought this was truly the full story and she just wanted to be left alone. Me and my friend group did our own thing because when we tried to talk to her she just kind of seemed uninterested. We didn't bother to ask why. A few days later we walked into our cabin to see that all of her stuff was gone. We were confused but didn't say anything. Our camp director came into the cabin a bit later and told us the full story. She told us about how the girl had been looking forward to coming

to camp since January with her best friend. She told us how her best friend had something come up and had to cancel. We found out that she called her mom earlier that day and said how left out she felt because she was in a cabin with a whole group who had been there since the camp opened. We had a long conversation about our experience of talking to her. She told us her mom made her be there but we didn't ask for the full story. We assumed she just didn't like being social. While this might have been an okay thing to do in other situations, she was living with us. We didn't even bother to ask why she was gone. I wish that the camp director had come to us and talked to us when this girl was still there. I have always felt bad that I couldn't make it right. I had been going to this camp for around five years and knew everyone. I knew how it felt to have bad moments there and I got too caught up in myself and my own interests. After this experience I took away the understanding that I don't always have the full story. I learned that I can't just give up on people. I learned to ask for the full story and try to get context to situations before just assuming. I have used this as a learning experience.

