



ADRIAN BERR

is a 10th grader at Cleveland Heights High School. His hobbies include playing the cello and photography—he love to take nature shots.

He is a member of the Heights High swim team and hopes to be a lifeguard this summer. Adrian is interested in being an architect, designer or photographer.

Talking about hate is one thing but experiencing hate is another. Having a learning disability is challenging at times, but learning how to live with it is easy. It all started in 1st grade when I saw a glimpse of my future, when I knew that I was different. My reading teacher would take me out of class for over half of the day and go to a different room where everything seemed better. When I had to leave to go to the other room I felt different, like I was not a real person. The kids that were in my class would make fun of me when I would go to my reading teacher’s room. When we were at recess they would make fun of me, bully me, just because I was not learning the way they did. Throughout school, I learned to ignore it and go on with my life.

When I got to middle school things got worse. The classes I was in were lower and the few friends that I had made in elementary school went to higher classes. They were tested to go into higher math and foreign language classes, while I went to reading classes. The only classes that I got to be with them in were social studies and science, and by then, they had their cliques. I watched them have a fun experience with school while I was stuck with a lot of kids that didn’t care. I felt like they all looked at me in a different way because I was not in the classes they were in and they would ask me questions like “Why aren’t you in the smart kid classes?” What was I supposed to say? I felt embarrassed and abandoned by my friends. I felt a little depressed and started second guessing myself.

Now in high school, things have gotten a lot better. I fought to be in honors classes and I have made a lot of friends. I have come to realize that I’m fine the way I am. I’m happier knowing that I have a learning disability and many other intelligent people have it too. Adversity has forced me to be resourceful, creative and compassionate. My plan of action would be towards the middle school level where a lot of unacceptable behavior is. I would visit schools with other high-schoolers and meet with learning disabled kids and speak to them about how it will get better. I would tell them some of my story, tell them that they should be proud and to fight for what they want. I would persuade them to find something they love and do it. For example, I like photography a lot and I feel like it relaxes me and makes me feel good about myself.