

Absolutely Not

by Kenita Gibbins

“Why is youth wasted on the young?” I can’t think of any reason to believe youth is wasted except that some days it would feel good to be young.

I’m willing to wager none of us would change a thing about being grandparents or friends with a young person. It proves difficult time after time for me not to go into a bragging mode about our brilliant and beautiful three grandchildren.

Averie is seventeen years old. She has already been accepted to the University of Oklahoma. She will start college as a sophomore because she is taking college courses through her high school. She wanted to maintain her four point grade average when she got a B in math! Red-headed Averie marched into the principal’s office and asked the principal and math teacher if she could retake the test. They said no. Averie asked why not? “You let those who flunked retake the test. Isn’t it discrimination, if I can’t retake the test?” The principal and teacher stood their ground, but surely they could see her point of view?

Reece is 16 years old and has the personality of a charmer especially with his Nana. Like Averie who is pretty, he is very handsome with green eyes and floppy dark hair. When I’ve seen him play basketball or run faster than most kids in the State of Oklahoma, I’ve watched the girls admire him. Reece keeps his grades up too, but also gives his parents anxiety. This Romeo isn’t wasting his youth. He is my go-to person when I have a computer problem. One time he drew me a diagram of exactly what needed to be connected. This generation has grown up in cyber land.

Landon, age 13, is a hero. He overcame being in a wheelchair with Perthes disease as a grade school kid. He has tenacity and wore his braces and did his exercises. Yes, he had wonderful doctors, parents who were diligent and two lab dogs to protect him. Plus his siblings didn’t torment him like they sometimes do now. Landon decided to take the SAT test when Averie and Reece were taking the tests. He outscored them! Landon is the only blond in the family and is blessed with a wonderful smile.

I’m also very lucky to get to hang out with youth at the Denver Art Museum. I love being with the kids. Many times adults will not converse about a work of art. I suspect they don’t want to make a mistake even though there are no right or wrong answers. All ages of young people can point out things to me and are willing to talk about their concepts of the art. They excite me.

I believe as aging people we can’t find things like keys because God is giving us opportunities to exercise by searching. I especially believe we were given long term memory just to remember our youth. Therefore, it is not possible to believe youth is wasted on the young.