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AP English III

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"Dad, we are among 6,000 people tonight, but for some reason I am remembering that first struggle that we got through together and somehow it feels like it's just the two of us again. Thank you."- *John Lloyd Young*

**The Man in My Eyes, John Lloyd Young**

"What is happening to my life," I asked myself. I had an understanding of what was going on in the world, but inside I was so confused. I had an amazing home, went to a great school, and had caring friends. Then it all started to get blurry. My dad told us that we had to move. Suddenly, I was moving away from my friends, going to an entirely different school, and moving into a space that barely fit my family. I was meeting kids with a wealthy amount of money, when my family had barely just enough. It was tough meeting people. Eventually my family and I dusted off the dirt and made our life a little better. But even with my life decent, I just felt like a machine, living life with the same everyday routine, I just felt numb.

I was having a marvelous life; I just didn't understand why I felt so dead. Then one night, June 11, 2006, I understood it

all. The man by the name John Lloyd Young explained everything to me in his Tony acceptance speech.

When I first saw John doing an interview for the show, I was hoping the glamour of fame was not going to change his sweet loving attitude. John is passionate about family and credits them for every achievement. John also loves to his fans that wait in large lines just to meet him. He gives each and every one encouraging words to live by, and hope in their dreams. He is loving and caring, that I hope I get to meet a man as sweet as he is! I think it is only fair to tell you a little bit about him! John Lloyd Young grew up in New Jersey, wanting to live his life as an actor. He lost his mom very young, due to cystic fibrosis. "I was two years old and I don't remember her," said John in his acceptance speech. He was often raised by his sister and father, and then the woman that would become his mother. His father wanted him to join military forces just like him, but John often fought to fulfill his dream. After graduation from Brown, he struggled to fulfill dreams. He was temping with jobs and did a few things at the local theater. A year before his big break, he was ushering for the Broadway production 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. When he was asked what it was like to be ushering a play and so near his dream he replied, "To borrow a Frankie Valli lyric, I was so close and yet so far." Then he got called to audition for Jersey Boys, the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Now he one of the biggest brakes in Broadway, and is now recognized as a Tony award winner, the highest achievement in the theater world. How did he help my life?

The night of the Tony, he expressed his true gratefulness and gratitude those ninety seconds couldn't fill. "It was just the two of us and he was my whole world," said John. I remember the feeling of the wet, bitter tears that coldly brushed across my face as soon as he said, "He was an officer in the Air Force and I always wanted to be an actor, and that put us at odds at certain points. But my girlfriend Alison assures me that my struggles were probably harder on him than they ever were on me." At that moment, I realized how much my family meant to me, and how badly I had taken them for granted. I realized I was waiting for something amazing to happen, but that something already did, my family. I realized that I am so thankful to have such wonderful people with me everyday. Just like him I wanted so badly to move forward in my dreams, but had some rough patches before I got on the right footsteps. My family and I always argued over my career choices. It was killing me inside to know that the people I love do not want me to be doing what I love. But even though my family disagreed with my dreams, I then knew that they want me to achieve my dreams and to live my life happily.

I will never forget John's beautiful smile. A smile that could light up a thousand city lights and could dance and dazzle the world. I will never forget his eloquent words that are warm fires of love and spirit, telling his fans and loved ones, that no one succeeds alone. I will never forget his eyes that shine like the stars in bright night sky, which shares a story of love and care. I have always dreamed getting a lucky chance to see the show and waiting for him at the stage door. If I do, I will never forget his warm, loving, and embracive hug and words of encouragement to love my life, and go for my dream. He will never know how much his autograph will mean to me, nor are there words to say how much he means to me. And I will never forget his simple but powerful and significant words, "Never give up."