



dr.phillips
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AdventHealth School of the Arts

What You May Not Know About Me Is

My favorite part about myself is my name
Because it is the purest form of my existence
Given by two hearts who loved me before I became
Elaina Marie Faith Dixon. Born on Tuesday, June 27 in the year 2000.
Before I became
Elaina- the black girl, Elaina the smart girl, Elaina the fat girl,
Elaina the dumb girl, Elaina the pretty girl, Elaina the skinny girl
Elaina the new girl, Elai the what's your name again? Girl.
You know, Elaina means bright shining light! Which is funny because most days
I feel I do anything but shine, if anything I fall into obscurity
Let me tell you a story
There once was a girl who dreamed of being seen and heard
That was before she became Elaina the middle child
Elaina the girl who attended 5 different middle schools
Shared the same space with over 3,000 different students in 3 years
And can't even remember their names. And I'm sure they don't remember mine either
My mind is my best friend and my worst enemy
It helped me win the writer of the month competition in elementary school
Got me first place in the Charles county science fair in middle school,
And helped me rank eighth in La Plata High School's Graduating class of 2018!!!
It builds arguments, and lyrics, and lesson plans, and mysteries out of nothing.
While at the same time, it tears me down with critiques and accusations that follow my tiniest
mistakes
I once won an award on the county level for being kind, and it was so refreshing because it was
something that my mind didn't achieve, I received that award for being me
I am kinder to others than I am to myself.
More gracious, and accepting, and understanding
But what you may not know about me is

This past summer I wrapped my heart in a letter soaked with tears and ripped with holes by
strangers who only saw my skin

And they knew how to kill my spirit, separate my soul from its love

My heart from its home with their systems and ideologies built to destroy me

But they didn't know my name

And what you may not know about me is

I still don't fully know myself

But I know my name

My name is brave, resilient, beautiful, intelligent, capable, overcomer

My name is Elaina Marie Faith Dixon

What's yours?

Elaina M. Dixon