

Angel Reed

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For our project, we had to honor a loved one who has passed away on account of the Spanish holiday, Dia de Los Muertos. We did this through designing a sugar skull and mask in a way that represents the loved one. I have decided to commemorate my older brother, Eric, with my mask and sugar skull. Losing my older brother was extremely difficult because he meant the world to me. We were practically best friends before he passed away; I could always go to him for advice or someone to talk to. Our 13 year age gap never prevented him from always having fun with me. Our countless hours of playing "Hide and Seek" and Playstation 2 are memories that I will always carry in my heart. He was the first person to teach me how to play video games and how to ride a bike. He was always so silly, happy, and rambunctious. My brother was a very honest, sincere young man and didn't like to see other people in pain. He was such a pure, positive individual that our home was always filled with his positive energy. I looked forward to seeing him get married, have children, and start his life. However, he was taken from us much too soon. He passed away in April of 2011, at only 25 years old. I decided to create my sugar skull in remembrance of my brother because his life deserves to be celebrated. My family has mourned over our loss, but we have never really expressed any happiness towards the life he lived. If anyone deserves to be commemorated, it is my brother. No matter what, I will never forget about him. My sugar skull reflects my brother because it is colorful and bright like his personality. It also has big, deep blue eyes similar to his. In addition, on the sides of the skull are the words "RIP Eric." Furthermore, I painted my skull mostly orange, which was my brother's favorite color. Dia de Los Muertos has opened my mind up to celebrating the lives of loved ones who have passed even though I didn't grow up that way. My family has often felt sorrow and grief for the loss of my brother which is understandable. However, Dia de Los Muertos has shown me that celebrating the life of my brother can be healthy and even somewhat of a relief. For instance, there is often a lot of tension when my brother is brought up around my family. You can practically feel the sadness in the air on account of his loss. Dia de Los Muertos is a time where instead of being sad, we can shine happiness upon my brother's memory. We can recollect on the joyous moments of his life and appreciate the amazing impact he had on all of us over the years. There are many different ways that we can honor his memory, such as going through home videos, pictures or his belongings. All of these are ways in which this holiday has opened up my mind to ways of commemorating loved ones who have passed.

Yo soy Angel. Yo soy la hermana de Eric. Mi hermano fue de Filadelfia. El fue el hijo de Maria y Bill. El fue una persona feliz y divertido. El fue muy inteligente y comico. Estoy en la clase de espanol, no lejos de su cementerio. Estoy triste cuando hablo de mi hermano. Esto es en conmemoración de mi hermano.

