

Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved"

-William Jennings Bryan

The Spelling Bee

"Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice." Winning the spelling bee is what I want most. Last year I finally was able to enter. I studied over summer vacation and winter break. I knew it was going to be hard because I was going up against 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who had more experience than me. I also knew that it was going to be 50 percent knowledge and 50 percent luck. I passed the written test with everyone else. January 21, 2014 was the school spelling bee. I could feel my heart beating as I tried to remember all the hard words I had learned. The eighth graders behind me were telling me how the first few rounds were super easy. And by easy, I was thinking of the words "magnanimous" or "croquette". I was the first one up. My word was "rug". I looked at the teacher giving the words like she was crazy. She was giving me a kindergarten word. I spelled it quickly and correctly.

The next round was just as easy. I was given the word "snowflake". Again I spelled my word correctly. I was getting the hang of this spelling bee and started to relax. The third round came up and my word was "bedtime". This was going to be easy. However, I spelled it too fast and skipped the "d." I realized my mistake right away. I got out on an easy word. The next hour was a blur. I sat in the auditorium listening to the rest of the spelling bee. The letters went zinging through my head, and I found myself making a game to spell the word before the other spellers. I got all the words right.

"Destiny is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved." I was upset after my first spelling bee. Now with the spelling bee just around the corner, I am studying difficult and easy words. I know I may never get to county for winning the school spelling bee or I may never get to Washington D.C., but I know I must try for it and not expect it to magically happen. I need to work hard for victory. I know I need to work hard on a lot of things and that's what will make me successful.