

Walking Oxymoron

by Hallie Nelson

I've always wondered what kind of person I am. I always take dumb quizzes that usually tell me what my personality is or what character is just like me. I've noticed the quizzes rarely give me back a description that fits me. Either they sort of get me correct or they are completely off. One test told me that I was the embodiment of anger. Another test told me I'm just like Fluttershy. So what am I like?

People tell me I'm funny. Someone once told me that they didn't think there was anything else to me other than being a "comedic relief character." I think the worst part of that statement is I don't know how to prove them wrong. I usually come up with jokes on the spot at any occasion, and I can never quite handle any situation without pulling a pun out. I even make jokes out loud to myself when I'm alone. I don't know why I act like this. There's not a camera on me that expects me to be entertaining.

I don't think anyone has ever quite grasped who I actually am. People don't know what I'm feeling because I smile when I'm angry, I laugh when I'm sad, and I'm quiet when I'm happy. I'm a walking oxymoron. I remember one time I tried to fight with my friend's parents over a rule of theirs I didn't like. The next day that same friend told me their parents thought I was very respectful. I can't count the amount of times someone thought I liked someone, and the truth was I actually hated them. I get low scores on tests I study for, and I excel when I doubt myself.

I'm trying to work on myself now. I'm making progress. I voice my opinions about things I don't like, and I let people know how I'm actually feeling. It's been hard for me to make that change, and I try not to apologize for trying to get myself into a cohesive human being. In return, I'm understanding myself better. I never knew how many things about me would clear up once I started vocalizing my thoughts.

I've learned that I'm very passionate about changing for the better. I'm constantly pointing out characters in TV shows or movies and talking on and on about how they could improve. I've learned that I don't like people who push me around. I don't think I ever realized how many people in my life took advantage of how I used to not speak up for myself. Now that I do, I can see the people who are there for me and people who were there to use me.

I don't want to be *just* a comedic relief character. I want to be complex, I want to be understandable, I want to be seen, and I want to be heard. And above all, I want to know what kind of person I am.