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Have you ever had a friend who's overcome many obstacles, who's completely changed the way you think, and just destined to be so special? My friend Omar, to me, is this friend, and he is the African-American I know that I most admire. I admire my friend simply because he has changed the way I related towards different people. My friend is admirable because he just seems like that one person that you meet who would be born into this world to be extraordinary. The other admirable quality about my friend is the many obstacles he has had to overcome in his life time to be the person he is today.

I admire my friend because he has changed the way I think about African-Americans. Prior to meeting my friend I used to be a bit of a racist. I never bothered to try and be friends with an African-American. I never thought I could ever relate or get along with one either. It was also the way I was brought up, my parents always have had a negative view towards African-Americans, especially my dad who had a negative perspective towards African Americans seeing them as people who were a burden in our society. Even at school, I have always had friends who didn't like African-Americans, ever since I was in Elementary school till today who don't like African-Americans because they have had troubling experiences where they would get beaten up by African Americans. Today though, in meeting my friend, I know better, that one or two experiences can't be the reason to hate a certain type of race and that I shouldn't judge a person by the color of their skin but rather by the character of their heart.

My friend Omar has to be one of the most special and memorable person that I have ever met. To this day I have yet to meet another person (African-American or non-African-American) who can compare to my friend Omar. From the day I met him I

knew he was bound to be an extraordinary person. His grades were always much better than mine, scoring almost nothing but A's, his test scores were amazingly high, he scored a 92 % on the Stanford 9 testing, meaning he bested 92% of the students in the same grade around the U.S. He just seems so full of life and born to be a leader rather than a follower.

One of the most admirable things about my friend is what he has had to overcome in his lifetime. As a small child he was abandoned by his parents and was left to live with a guardian. He still sees his parents, but only once in a while but hardly having the attention that he should have had throughout his life. He has never really liked to talk about his past, it always seems he would like to leave it behind and he does that by doing the best he can in school. Since the day I met him he has always been a class clown, and I think he does it to get the attention that he lacked in his youth. I have always wanted to talk to him about his past because he had shared some of it in class where the teacher had asked him something and everybody heard the part of the story that to some extent he didn't mind sharing, and after he had finished I could see him become depressed by the look in his watering eyes.

My friend Omar has to be the African-American I most admire. He has changed the way I think about African-Americans, he is just simply born to be much more than I could ever accomplish, and he has overcome many hardships. I don't think I could ever measure up to anything he does. I am no longer in contact with my friend due to different schools, but I know wherever he is, he is sure to be doing everything he can to the very best he can.