

Tucker Contest

Lucia #24

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Winston Churchill once said, "Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential." Many people honor this philosophy but do not live up to it. It is not about the good or bad qualities a person is born with, it is about how far someone is willing to go to make a change. There are some who are willing to go very far, but only a small majority are driven by good virtue. A hero can be many things, for many different reasons, but Tucker and Richard Etheridge are two heroes for related reasonings.

It takes a whole lot of courage to be the only black man on his surfing team, and to face a churning, perilous, hurricane on a boat, in order to save four people. This is just what Etheridge did. Kristen Lewis, author of, "Saved From Disaster," writes, "Etheridge's team charged into the churning water in the middle of a hurricane - risking their lives." This is the act of a hero. Richard Etheridge had courage, not because he wasn't scared stiff, but because he was scared stiff, and did it anyhow. But Richard Etheridge was not the only one who was brave, Tucker was too. Tucker saved a full grown man from drowning when

he was only twelve! Both were as brave as knights!

Everybody in the world is different. Being different is the way everybody is born. We don't get to choose to be tall or strong, just like Tucker and Etheridge did not get to choose who they were. Yet there was a reason Tucker was short and Etheridge was black. If they had not been unique they wouldn't have proven anything. Since they were different, they did prove that anyone can be anything. In the story, "Into the Storm," it states, "... he [Tucker] looked like an elf. And you know how it is when you're a little different.

Both Tucker and Richard proved something by being unique. Tucker might have been short, but did that stop him from saving a man from drowning?

Kristen Lewis writes on page twenty two how Etheridge was the only black man on the surf team. Despite this, he still managed to become a hero! Samuel Johnson once declared, "No man was ever great by imitation." Tucker and Richard Etheridge were both great, and did they ever try to be something they were not?

No man or woman who succeeded in life did not persevere. Choices affront everyone in daily life, but few find themselves risking their lives like Tucker and Richard did. Etheridge was shot

down by whites who did not think Black men should hold high positions in society. Kristen Lewis writes, "Yet Etheridge refused to give up." He could have satisfied the white men by backing out, or conceding. If he had though, he never would have saved the crew of the E.S. Newman who were stranded in the ocean during a hurricane. In the Bible, there is a verse that says, "Let us run with the perseverance the race marked out for us." Richard did this and so did Tucker. The author of, "Into the Storm," Eleanora E. Tate wrote that Tucker hesitated, and than he made the life-risking decision to save Mr. Nibbles. All Tucker and Richard did was tell themselves they could do it, and they did.

Tucker and Etheridge both faced perilous situations, risking their lives along the way. Yet through it all they ended up becoming true heroes. Tucker and Richard were heroes because they were courageous, unique, and determined to succeed.