

John O' Hara Award Essay

Contestant #1

Ever since I was a little girl, I always looked forward to the end of July. The end of July meant celebrating Rain Day and getting to go see the ever-famous Miss Rain Day Pageant. Every year I would watch the girls show off their talent and model in their pretty dresses. I looked up to them as role models and wished that one day I would get to wear the crown myself. Year after year, my yearning for the crown grew more and more each time. Now that I actually get to participate in the pageant, the yearning for that crown is at its highest. Though, this year I realized that being Miss Rain Day is more than just having a pretty face and that July 29th is more than just a day filled with funnel cakes and the hope of rain drops.

Who would ever think that a bit of small talk in a drugstore would rupture into a full-blown celebration over 100 years later? The way that the town of Waynesburg celebrates Rain Day has expanded in so many positive ways over the years. Rain Day is a huge celebration in not only Waynesburg, but much of Greene County. July 29th isn't just a day where people hope for rain, but a day where people come from all over the county to see the people that they may only see once or twice a year. This day creates a barrel of excitement for all of the people involved with it.

Then, there is always the lucky young lady who gets to say that she is Miss Rain Day. I have always had the miraculous hope that I would get to say that. But like I previously stated, being Miss Rain Day is more than having a pretty face. Like every queen, she has to be smart, talented, kind, and confident. But most importantly, she has to be a good role model to the little girls out there that would do anything to be in her place and to be just like her. I hope that if I ever do become Miss Rain Day, that I can live up to the expectations of everyone, but most importantly to the little girls that were just like me.

Over the years, Rain Day has spiraled into something more than just any old day. Much of the people of Greene County consider Rain Day to be a holiday. There are so many activities to do and so many people to see. It is very important to the town of Waynesburg and to all of Greene County. July 29th is one of the few days of the year that the people can just relax and take a break from the rest of the world's problems. Rain Day is very important to me and I hope that it is as just as important to others as well. That is what Rain Day means to me.