

Heroes

By Tom Hetherington

This story was inspired by Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Futures movement. It is the story of two teens who help put out fire and save children. Courage is doing something when the outcome is unknown. Bravery is having courage in the face of danger. A hero is courageous and brave in pursuit of right.

Once upon a time, there was a family who lived in very peaceful and beautiful valley on the shore of a gentle sea. A marvelous place full of green trees, smelly flowers, crawly bugs and singing birds. The family was very happy and **had everything they needed to have a good life.**

One day, the parents said, “there are things we want from the store and Futura will look after you.” Futura was a bright, beautiful and responsible teen who had a good heart. **Everyone loved her.**

Soon after her parents left, Futura heard **screaming**. She looked outside and saw that the house across the street **was on fire!** And worse still, she saw two children hanging out of the upstairs window. A young girl and even younger boy. They cried; “**help us, help us! our house is on fire and we might die.**”

“I will help you,” Futura said as she ran back into her house and dialed 911. “Come quickly, the children across the street **are in danger**, their house is on fire and **their parents can not save them.**” “The firefighters are coming,” said the operator, “help is on the way, have courage and stay strong.” **Please come quickly, there is not much time!** Futura replied.

Futura was not satisfied with having to wait for the firefighters so she went outside picked up the long garden hose that her dad used to water the plants and ran across the street with the nozzle. Turning on the water she fought the fire as best as she could. Sometimes the heat was so intense that she had trouble keeping it in one place and putting water on just the right spot. Sometimes, it seemed hopeless and she just wanted to put the hose down, cry and give up. **But she persisted** and eventually, little by little, she managed to stop the fire’s spread. However, the children upstairs were still in danger. She could hear them through the smoke, flames, steam and smoldering ashes yelling **Help us, help us, the fire is still here!**

Not knowing exactly what to do and knowing she had to do something, she took a deep hot smokey **breath** that left a foul taste in her mouth and burned her throat. She was afraid. Her body shaking with fear, she mustered her courage and decided to get the fire extinguisher from the kitchen and come back and save the children. Futura knew that this was fool hearty and dangerous and she also knew that **her heart gave her no other choice. She was brave.**

More courageous than most people, she ran back to her house and into the kitchen where the fire extinguisher was, grabbed it and started to run back. Her brother Forte, asked “what are you doing” and Futura answered, “**the children are in danger, we must put the fire out together we can save them.**”

With that, these two brave teens ran across the street and entered the burning building armed with only a fire extinguisher and a garden hose. That coupled with their courage was just enough to clear a path through the smoldering ashes and up the stairway to the children’s room. “**We are here to save you,**” the teens said as they both picked a child and made their way back down the stairs and into the yard. The younger children sobbed with joy “**you saved us! you saved us!**”

Once on the street, **all of the children**, used **everything** they could think of to put out the fire: water, sand, and wet blankets. Futura said, “this is an emergency and we **need everyone to act now, we can not wait** for the firefighters.” Hearing this even the adults who had been just watching started to help. By the time the firefighters arrived, the fire was almost completely out. All they had to do was put out the last of the smoldering cinders and prepare the site to build a new house **which would not catch fire.**

Everyone agreed that it was because of the **courage and bravery** of Futura, Forte and their siblings that the children were saved. A firefighter said to a news reporter that “the children’s courage, quick thinking, bravery and readiness to act in the face of danger had saved the day” and that they were “heroes.” He said that Futura was “particularly brave because she stood up and stepped forward when it was needed.” To celebrate the city put up a statute with the family’s picture on it and the story of what they did to **save the children from fire.** Forte was especially proud to be asked to ride on the fire truck and sound the siren during a civic celebration of the family’s **courage and bravery.** Everyone agreed that they were **heroes.**

The End