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Life isn't always easy. Sometimes we face challenges that seem like they are going to stop us in our tracks. At this point you see the difference in those who face the world and those who choose to give into fear. I learned this lesson a few years back when my twin sister and best friend was in the hospital for two weeks and had to undergo multiple surgeries.

Let me help set the scene, 2016 my seventh grade year. My sister started feeling pain in her ribs, and my mom took her to the after-hours clinic. They said it was some swelling but nothing serious. The next week came and it got worse even to the point where she couldn't even walk. We took her to the first hospital and little did we know this was only the first stop on our journey. This hospital diagnosed my sister with pneumonia, seemed pretty simple and common to me. Once we found this out she started treatment. Something seemed off to me still though, her spirit was broken and she kept getting worse despite what everyone told me. She just kept getting worse and worse and everyone told me she was okay but I knew my best friend and I knew there was something seriously wrong.

I kept coming back to see my sister every day and nothing had changed. Shortly after a few days, she became septic and had to be transferred by ambulance to Hurley Children's Hospital. At Hurley, things started getting brighter. I felt like for once in the past week it was going to be okay. My sister went through two surgeries and had chest tubes going in and out of her small tired body.

I felt like my sister's advocate through out the next week, her voice in this huge hospital. Everyone tried to tell me something about my sister, but I always knew the truth. I



think one thing I learned in this experience is that as a kid there are going to be adults who don't think you have anything to say and they aren't going to listen to you, but you will just have to find a voice to speak up because you will always know the truth in your heart.

My sister recovered very slowly and had to have many precautions like homeschooling for a month after and infusions at home. When my sister started getting better I felt a change in heart because I never realized that until that point I was almost holding in a breath for fear something was going to happen to her. My sister and I both learned a lot from this experience and I know that together we can face anything that comes our way.

