In the story, "Fly Away Home" By: Eve Bunting, Andrew, is hopeful that his father and him will get a home, he is also hopeful they will not get caught by security, and most importantly, he is hopeful that the bird will get out of the terminal, that somehow it compares to his dad and himself.

Furthermore, Andrew is hopeful that his father and him will get a home. I know this because, they are both saving money to afford or buy a rent. However, at the end of the story, Fly Away Home, this is how the story ends, " Sometimes I just want to cry. I think Dad and I will be here forever. Then I remember the bird. It took a while, but a door opened. And when the bird left, when it flew free, I know it was singing." This shows me that Andrew is staying hopeful that his father and him will get a home.

Andrew is also hopeful that his father and him will not be caught by security. I know this because, he always listens to his father and he is always careful and cautious and has faith that they will not be caught by security. The text also says, " He and I wear blue jeans and blue T-shirts and blue jackets. We each have a blue
zippered bag with a change of blue clothes. Not to be noticed is to look like nobody at all." This shows me that Andrew is still hopeful not to be caught or he would have given up by now.

Some people may think that Andrew is not hopeful, because he seems to have given up hope, and thinks that they will never get a home. However, I don’t believe this because towards the end he remembers the bird and how he got out, and it’s like a spark unites inside him, and he suddenly has all the hope in the world that they will find a home.

The last reason Andrew is hopeful is that the bird will get out of the terminal, that it somehow compares to his dad and him. I know this because Andrew cheers the bird on to escape. The text states, "Don’t stop trying! Don’t! You can get out!" This shows Andrew is hopeful that the bird will escape and that it compares to him and his dad.

Andrew is hopeful that his father and him will get a home, he is also hopeful they will not get caught by security, and most importantly, he is hopeful that the bird will get out of the terminal, that it somehow compares to his dad and himself.

Brendan
Andrew, is hopeful that his father and him will get a home, he is also hopeful they will not get caught by security, and most importantly, he is hopeful that the bird will get out of the terminal, that somehow it compares to his dad and himself.
Fly Away Home Theme Based Essay #2
By: Brendan VerLee

While we sometimes want to just give in and give up, you should never give in and always pull through. Confidence. It is extremely important in everyday life. In the story, Fly Away Home By: Eve Bunting, the author shows through Andrew that you should never give up because, he doesn’t have a place he can truly call home. Andrew shows that you should never give up because, his father and him are saving money to buy a home even though it looks hopeless. He wants to cry because he thinks they will never get a home but he pulls through and never gives up, and he never gives up and tries never to get caught.

Andrew never gives up because he is saving the little money he has for a home, even though it looks hopeless. In the text it says, “I’m saving money too, I tell him, and point to my shoe. Atta boy! Father smiles.” He is saving his money because he thinks that father will need help affording a home. This is one of the few reasons Andrew never gives up.

To add on, Andrew never gives up because, He wants to cry because he thinks they will never get a home but, he always stays confident and never gives up. In the text it states, “Sometimes I just want to cry. I think Dad and I will be here forever.” This shows that Andrew is worried that they won’t get a home, but he stays confident anyway and never gives up.
The final reason Andrew never gives up is because, he tries very hard not to get caught, and never, ever, gives up. In the text it says, "Dad and I sleep sitting up. We use different airport areas. He and I wear blue jeans and blue T-Shirts and blue jackets. We have a blue zippered bag with a change of blue clothes. Not to be noticed is to look like nobody at all." This shows me that Andrew is very careful not to be caught, and doesn’t give up.

Some people may disagree with my claim and say that Andrew isn’t never giving up, that he has given up all hope of finding a home, but I think he’s agitated and wants a home because, in the text, if you read it a few times, you can see Andrew does NOT give up and ALWAYS stays strong.

In Fly Away Home, the author shows, through Andrew, that you should never give up. He stays confident and always pushes through his problems. We can all learn from Andrew’s experiences to never give up, stay confident, and always have hope. Only then, will we truly be able to have success with most things in life.

Brendan
It may seem like “Fly Away Home” by Eve Bunting and “The Scorch Trials” by James Dashner are totally different kinds of stories. One is a short story for kids about a dad and a son living in an airport and one is a story about the future. But if you look closer, you can see that these very different stories actually share a common theme. In both stories the author teaches us that no matter how hopeless it may seem, you should never give up.

In “Fly Away Home” the author, Eve Bunting, shows us that you should never give up, even if it seems completely hopeless. In the beginning and in the middle of the story, the dad and son are struggling to maintain their financial troubles and they are slowly starting to give up. However at the end of the story, the son gains his hope because he remembers a bird that never gave up, and the bird escaped the airport. Therefore, The son starts to never give up and starts saving his money to help his father buy a home. The lesson is clear: Never give up in life and you will most likely succeed.
In “The Scorch Trials” the author, James Dashner, also shows us that you should never give up, even if it seems completely hopeless. In the beginning and middle of the story, the gladers are just pawns in WICKED’s plan to get the cure for the Flare. But at the end of the story, the Gladers change and become more than pawns, much more. They become confident and plan to take WICKED down. The lesson in this story is clear as well: Work hard and never give up, and you will most likely succeed.

Both of these stories teach us that in real life you need to never give in and never give up when you face a problem. “Fly Away Home”, by Eve Bunting, is for younger kids, so it teaches you to never give up in a more simple way. The author shows us to never give up through the young boy. However in “The Scorch Trials”, by James Dashner, it teaches us to never give up in a more complex way. It teaches us through very bad hardships and death and mindless, insane people. The gladers have to learn to never give up in order to survive. Changing how we think, and choosing to never give up is a lesson every single person in the world should learn.

Brendan
Personal Narrative #1  
By: Brendan VerLee

CRASH! Went the plate. “Oh, come on!” I yelled. BOOM, BANG, CRASH! There went another plate and 2 pots. “Can this morning possibly get any worse!??” I demanded of myself. I flashed back to the last time luck was not with me.

“WHY DID YOU GET A 75% ON YOUR MATH TEST!?” My dad was screaming. I tried explaining that a 75% isn’t bad, but he wouldn’t hear it. Then as I was walking down the stairs, still arguing, I tripped and fell to the bottom and banged against the wall as I smashed a picture as I fell. My dad was absolutely livid.

“I’ll vacuum.” My dad volunteered shaking me from my flashback.

He was almost done cleaning up the debris when I saw a yellow glow deep within the vacuum, it was like lightning inside the vacuum. Then, the vacuum was silent. How is that even possible? I thought vividly in my thoughts.

“Ok, I’m done, I’m going to bed, this day can’t get any worse.” I said. “School starts in 5 minutes.” My dad said.

When I got downstairs I found nothing to eat, so I had to go to school on an empty stomach. Then I missed the
bus and my dad had to drive me. That has to be the worst morning in the history of mankind.

But, we picked everything up, I got to school on time and it all worked out. It was still a pretty bad morning more or less. The hard lesson and advice that I can give you out of this bad experience is don’t under any circumstances carry a plate when you just recently washed your hands.

Brendan
“Why are you killing the deck?” I said to my mom in disbelief. Has she gone utterly insane? I thought. I got home right when my mom tore off the last piece of the remaining deck, it seemed to be shouting, HELP ME. After she threw it in the yard she came over to me, it was like she walked in slow motion. The hours ticking by as she made her way over to me slowly.

My mind flashed back to the last time my mom did a huge change around the house without asking anyone. “Mom can we order p-” My sentence had been cut short. Our whole family room was painted a different color! It was painted teal instead of blue. I remember that day very clearly and I remember how shocked I was when I saw that and it felt like it was happening again.

Then my mom gave her explanation, pulling me out of my daze. “I wanted to get a new deck, this one is old.” I just stared still not believing what I saw in front of me. “Did you ask dad?” I managed to choke out. “No, I wanted to give him a surprise.” She said. “He’ll be in for a surprise, all right, his head will probably blow off from surprise, it will be like that time when he thought he won the lottery and
was in total shock.” I responded. “Well I’ll be upstairs.” She said and she disappeared.

Abruptly, right on cue, “WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO THE DECK?!?!?!?” My dad yelped. It was like the sound of 1000s of bees buzzing at once. Apparently my dad is home… “Mom tore it apart so we can get a new one.” I said. “WHAT!?” He yelled. “That’s what I said too.” I responded.

“Why didn’t she ask me???” He demanded. Because you act like a psycho, I answered him in my thoughts. Instead of saying that though, I said, “Go talk to her, she’s upstairs.” I said. He went right upstairs in a nanosecond, Then I heard bickering.

I went upstairs to follow my dad and then I heard arguing. “Why would you destroy our deck and then say you found a brand new, expensive deck to replace it”?! My dad demanded. “Why are you acting like this? You wanted a new deck too.” My mom countered.

“Stop arguing!” I shouted. “You both wanted a new deck, right?” I said. “Yes.” They both answered in unison. “Then, how about you just get a new deck that’s not very expensive?” I said.

“OH MY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DECK, WAS THERE A THEFT!?” “Looks like Ava’s home.” My mom said. I rolled my eyes.
In a few days everything was forgiven. We were watching TV and laughing about how surprised we were when we came home and the deck was in boards and pieces. Finally, everything got sorted out in a couple of days, we started looking for a new deck but they were all pretty expensive. We’re finally getting one about 9 months later.

To conclude, the lesson our family and our house learned is NEVER, EVER, NEVER, AT ANY TIME, leave my mom alone, unattended at our house. If we do something will either be gone or replaced. We all remembered the surprise jump we all got when we came home and that room was a different color, but that was nothing compared to the entire deck being gone and being broken up and spread around the yard. But, even though we fight and my mom does things without telling us, we always forgive each other and we’re there for each other in the end.

Brendan
Personal Narrative #3
By: Brendan VerLee

Our family likes to play a fun game called charades together. It’s a game where you have to act out what’s on a card without making any kind of noise. It’s always hilarious because nobody in our family knows how to act. We laugh at each other because we look ridiculous doing it but we never try to be mean.

It’s hard to not make any noise, because if your team doesn’t guess what you’re acting you’re practically screaming in your head, COME ON, GUESS IT! We usually play with our cousins, aunts, and uncles. We rented a cottage in Michigan near Silver Lake for a week and we played it there. That was the most hilarious game to date. It was my dad, my uncle, and me against my mom, my aunt, and my sister. It was my mom’s turn first.

“What are you doing, breeding deformed pigs?” I asked. Everyone else playing or watching howled with laughter. “No, I’m climbing a ladder,” My mom said. That brought another chorus of laughter. She really is a bad actress, I thought. That flashed me back to the last time my mom acted in this game, she looked ridiculous. She had to act a dead squirrel so she rolled around and looked completely weird. The neighbors saw her flopping around, and thought she was having a heart attack.

“Brendan, It’s your turn, are you going or not?” My dad said, pulling me away from my day-dream. I went up and picked a card, it said insane horse. That meant I had to act out an insane horse. It felt like the card was laughing at my bad luck. I started my turn and had to run around the room yelling “NEIGH!!!!!!!!” It felt like I had a ticking time bomb inside of my stomach. While everyone cracked up. Whenever someone is laughing at you in this game, it means they’re enjoying you failing at acting. I reminded myself, We all know when we’re laughing at someone you’re just having a good time and you’re not trying to be mean. It was abruptly

Brendan
my dad’s turn, he always gets the hardest and weirdest things to act, so our team held our breath.

Then he started his turn, he pounded his chest and howled like a monkey. Our team guessed for what seemed an eternity, and didn’t get it while the other team laughed so hard their faces were blue, green, and violet. Then his turn ended. “Oh come on, it was a piece of cake, I was curious george!” He said in frustration. We all howled so hard with laughter you could have heard us in Miami Beach.

You can completely tell how bad our family is at acting but we always have fun. It’s so hilariously funny to watch our family play charades. Maybe next time we play, I’ll just watch... But that’s probably not going to happen since my mom wants everyone to “participate.”

Even though we do make fun of each other, everyone knows we’re not trying to be offensive and that we don’t mean it. It’s always fun joking around and having fun, but what makes charades such a good game is that you can joke around at our family members horrible acting, but they know that you’re not trying to be rude or offensive.