

Resilience

Forest, One “r”, Define:

A large area covered chiefly with trees and undergrowth.

Forrest, Two “r”s, Define:

A name,
A male name,
Meaning, from the woods,
But to me, that name is so much more.

Brother, Define:

A male’s relation to other sons or daughters of his own parents.

Brother, Define:

A loving and loyal person
Who takes care of you,
Who stands up for you,
Who is the meaning of “tough love”,
Who smells like cologne,
And though he may sometimes wear too much,
You love the scent.

It brings comfort,
And means that you will be safe,
As long as you have each other.

He looks like a mountain,
He stands tall and proud.

He is rough around the edges,
Like the earth and rock that make up his walls.

But underneath of all that mountain,
You know that there is warm,
Goey,
Lava,
That if anyone came too close to,
They would be burned with the heat of his embarrassment.

**But if you have a brother,
you already knew that.**

I am not here to tell you about brothers,
I am here to tell you about mine.

Forrest Edward McGawley, Define:

Male,
Caucasian,
24 years of age.

Born August the seventh,
Nineteen hundred and ninety.

In West California,
Born and raised,
He was the Fresh Prince of...
Well...
Malibu.

Divorce,
Poverty,
A single mom who was strong enough to stay sober,
And work two jobs to support them.

His childhood wasn't the best,
But he got through it.

With his mom working so much,
It left him with a lot of free time to get into trouble,
And make mistakes.

Resilience, Define:

A trait meaning someone who has overcome a significant struggle in his/her life,
But had the ability to recover quickly,
And make something good out of it.

**“Trouble and mistakes”
That was my brother’s struggle.**

But my brother is strong.

Like the towering Redwoods,
No fire will ever burn out the life he has running through him.

No matter how many times people told him to,
“Run Forrest! Run!”
He never did.

To this day he continues to plant his feet in the ground,
And stick up for what he thinks is right.

He has always kept his morals and loyalties in the right places.

Loyalty, Define:

The act of giving firm and constant support or allegiance to a person or institution.

Faith, Define:

Complete trust or confidence,
In someone or something.

Faith.
A resilient quality.
A quality that my brother never lost sight of.

Faith in his mother,
Faith in his friends,
Faith in himself.

His mother was his North star.

She was the one who taught him the things that really mattered.
She was his roots,
His sunshine.

She was the one who brought him up,
And let his leaves open,
To touch the sky.

But when it came time,
His sunshine had to go away.

**My brother had to find his way in a world,
Without a North star.**

Proud, Define:

A feeling of satisfaction as a result of one's own achievements,
Qualities,
Or possessions,
Or those of someone with whom one is closely associated.

Proud, Define:

The feeling I get when I get to tell others about my big brother.

Like “mama” once told another,
More well known,
Forrest,
“Life is like a box of chocolates,
You never know what you’re gonna get.”

In the end, the flavor is still a mystery to us all,
Life is like journey of confusion,
and loss,
but also a journey of lessons,
and hope.

The journey will never end.

My brother is still finding his way in this world,
and so is everyone else.

In truth, we will never find our way,
It is a lifelong struggle,
But the struggles are what make us all resilient.