

Inspired by J. Ruth Gendler's The Book of Qualities, these eleventh graders wrote the following personification paragraphs, working hard to develop their **ideas** and their **word choice**. Read each piece and talk about each writer's strength with those two traits.

Ambition
by Tatjana

Ambition is the offspring of Potential and Corruption, and she cannot be found without her deep China Red lipstick. Her beautiful appearance, which is bold yet deceiving, will lead you to go crazy. Ambition is the last thing on your mind by the end of the day and the only one swimming through your dreams at night. She is the one whispering behind your ear with each decision you make, leading you to the goal you keep secret from everyone but Ambition herself.

Ambition rooms with her look-alike sister, Desire, and long time childhood best friend forever, Selfishness. Together, Desire, Selfishness, and Ambition openly despise their neighbors, Modesty and Laziness.

Ambition is an intern who works under Greed. She respects her boss in a fair manner, but looks up with great admiration to Power instead. Ambition has had many jobs previously in her lifetime, all pertaining to her ability to bring out the absolute best and most horrible worst from anyone and everyone.



Guilt
by Paul

Guilt wears a large black coat and has a rather gloomy face. He is not very large, but he weighs heavily upon people's souls and hearts. Guilt is so very sneaky. He has a soft voice and creeps up on you right when you're not expecting it, usually after a particularly bad deed has been done. Guilt is friends with Fear, and when they get together, they can make some extremely poor decisions. They begin to scheme and plot ways to ruin a person's life.

Guilt hates people who always do the right thing. There is no place for him in those people so he is out of a home. Guilt preys on people who have too much fun and who make hasty decisions. He is able to live upon their misery and despair after a mistake or something terrible that they have done. Luckily, there will always be a home for Guilt inside those people who refuse to tell the truth.

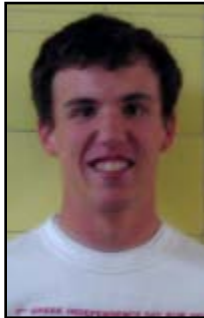


Power
by Sam

Power is amazing, as long as he is one of your friends. Turn against him and he will crush you like a raging elephant stampeding through the plains. Power has always been around watching, waiting, corrupting some while lifting others to glory. If Power helps you, then make sure you keep a straight mind; otherwise, you may stray from course and turn to evil.

Power has no home, but rather he prefers to move from place to place, helping those who need him. This is shown through the actions of the poor, the needy, and the ambitious people who only want his friendship more. It is these people who Power sends that corrupting letter that, if read, will send a person on a downward spiral into darkness.

Power loves Ambition. He loves her because she is the one who gives him those that are poor, needy, and ambitious so that he may mold them into one of his friends. His friends aren't really his friends, but rather people who are too scared of defying him and walking away. They are so enamored with the gifts of Power that they don't know how to refuse them.



Fear
by Nicole

Fear wears silk dresses in a gloomy palette. The dreary colors suit her skin, a shade above snow. Fear likes to play with her friends--the guilty, paranoid addicts, and the vulnerable in the world. She doesn't play very nicely with her friends. Her utterances, though soft and melodic at first, soon turn into a vindictive and biting snarl. Her sweet venom flows through your unprepared veins, a gruesome shock. Her beautiful figure is a distraction from the horrors that lie within – a Pandora's Box-- just give up and it opens.

Fear often dances with her friends. First, starting at a slow pace to an eerie tune that she sings, as the tempo quickens the steps become more complicated. It becomes nearly impossible to look away from her misleading doe-like eyes, so full of hatred and dominance that one often succumbs to the images of horror and the anguish screaming in their mind. She takes this opportunity to trip them, laughing at their dread and panic.

The few that aren't fooled by Fear's façade can see how frail she really is. Her pallid limbs are held together by twine. All that it takes is a simple tug to startle her. She falls to pieces, a pile of broken porcelain. She will never haunt you again.

