

Bethany - Level 7

Tyson's Corner

What would be the joy of a child when a hero saves them, and that hero is their own friend? In the short story, "The Friend Who Changed My Life" by Pam Muñoz Ryan, Pam encounters bullying from a girl named Theresa. Pam endures this torment, but in the midst of it, she gains a new friend, Mary Lou. She guides her to stand up for herself. The two get over their former strife and slowly begin to bond. Mary Lou is Pam's hero because, she didn't refrain from helping, being a good friend, and staying with her through it all/

Mary Lou wasn't afraid to help Pam stand up against Theresa. When Pam was trying to run away from Theresa because she had begun persistently kicking her, Mary Lou stepped in and helped Pam even when no one would stand up to Theresa. Mary Lou stepped "through the crowd of kids and took her elbow and...cleaned up her leg". Even though Theresa was a huge bully, the entire group of kids were judging her, and Pam. Because of Mary Lou's actions, she is a hero.

Mary Lou was a good friend to Pam. After Mary Lou got Pam up and cleaned, she said that Pam would have to "stand up for herself" against Theresa "or else she wouldn't stop." Mary Lou had been very generous by helping Pam but also teaching her how to make the bullying stop. She could have just left after Pam was cleaned up and let her take care of the situation. Instead, she didn't and walked out with her to face Theresa. By helping and teaching Pam, Mary Lou proves to have noble qualities.

After Mary Lou and Pam meet each other, they quickly become good friends. Mary Lou and Pam begin spending time together, going places together, and being close. During a sleepover, "Mary Lou was by her side." Mary Lou could have left her relationship with Pam, but she decided to stay friends with Pam. This is an outstanding achievement and a courageous act from Mary Lou.

In conclusion, Mary Lou helped Pam by aiding her in standing up to Theresa and cleaning her up but also staying her friend. Friends can be found in any situation. Acts of courage, great achievements, and noble qualities can make a hero out of anyone.