

Guardian Angel

By Augusta Ollech

As I sat looking at all the strange foreign faces and unknown people, I could feel at the core of my stomach, butterflies rapidly fluttering their wings against the edges. Each strange face asking: Who is this girl? Why is she here? Should I say something? Should I ignore her? Of course I was also thinking the same things: Why am I here anyway? I didn't want to come! I didn't want to leave my home and friends to come somewhere new!

I could feel myself spiraling down as the teacher asked everyone to group up and go to a computer for an experiment. Now why of all things would she ask that? It's the first day of school! Of course, everyone here knows each other, and will sit together and talk about their summer. They won't group with the new girl. I sadly watched the girls go by and was left with choosing one of the boys, or a short brunette girl wearing glasses, glaring at her friend who grouped with someone else and left her alone. I summoned up my courage and slowly walked over.

"Will you group with me?" I questioned, though I probably sounded like I was pleading.

"Sure," she answered giving me a small smile as she walked over to a computer.

Thank God, I thought as I sat down next to her.

"Thanks for asking," she said suddenly as she studied me. "I didn't want to get stuck with the boys," she added with a grimace as she went through the science computer program.

"Oh..." I was caught off guard. *I didn't think she was going to talk to me.* "Yeah, same for me," I agreed looking at the boys messing around.

"What's your name?" the girl asked looking at my blank, unnamed paper.

"Augusta Ollech," I replied, smiling as I noticed that she had been waiting for it. "What about yours?"

"Danielle" she said beaming, as if she could see straight through my barriers.

It may not seem like our meeting meant anything initially, but actually, Danielle got me through my seventh grade year at the new school. Without her, my year would have probably felt like the first day for a long time. Though Danielle liked different things like participating in plays and doing math competitions, unlike me who liked playing golf and competing

in tennis, we both became closer and closer. Some people say they have a guardian angel that protects you and guides you the right ways, and Danielle was the one who stuck with me through thick and thin like I would do for her.

At one point, she had an operation on her back, making her unable to walk for weeks and condemning her to the house for most of the summer. I spent much of my time with her, trying to keep her spirits up and boredom level low. Both our lives changed when my parents decided to move to Colorado. Now even though we are separated, we've never forgotten our memories, laughs, and friendship together.