

Jack Ryan  
English 2XL  
Section 4  
PV Original Poem CM #2

### “Mask”

I wrote this poem about a boy who wears a metaphorical mask to cover up who he really is in order to get more friends and become more popular. Unlike “The Home Run” where one might never know what the poem was about had I not stated it in the title, I did not try to cover up the meaning of this poem at all, because I thought it would be more of a journey and easier for people to relate to.

This poem was inspired by personal experience, as well as Fr. Leidich’s Theology 2A class. Everybody at some point or another has worn some sort of mask to cover up something about him or her that they personally find “unattractive” or “unappealing.” I have, and I’m sure all of my friends have. What I have also experienced is the immense pleasure one gets when he or she takes that mask off and allows his or her true self to come out. This poem is about letting go and not worrying about others’ opinions. At the end of the day, only you determine how happy you are with yourself, and your peers shouldn’t be able to tell you how to live. Finally, I would like to share a great quote by Dr. Seuss: “Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.” This is sort of a tongue twister, but long story short, people who want to change who you are don’t matter and are not true friends, and those who do matter such as family and true friends don’t care to try and change you because they like you just the way you are.