Khloe K.

**Greenhouse Business**

*Cornell High School*

In the Garden

As a child, I remember working in the garden with my grandma. Together, me and my brother would pick pumpkins, receiving tiny pricks on our fingers as a reward. In the spring, I would ganter down the driveway to spread seeds in the fertile rows of her garden. The biggest reward of it all was seeing the beautiful flowers, fruits, and vegetables that grew in return for my hard work. Eventually, I fell in love with this past-time.

Growing up helping my grandmother in the garden was very difficult at times. Running off of the bus, I could see Nonny (my grandmother) waiting for me to walk up the driveway with her. I could feel the hot sun shine on my skin, and I knew it would be lots of hard work that day. Pulling my boots on and getting into a change of clothes, I was dreading the day of work I knew was ahead of me.

Complaining, I said, “Nonny, do you really *need* help in the garden today?” I never realized just how much my Nonny treasured our time together. Enduring the pain, I pitifully walked outside with my grandmother and picked up the hose to start watering the garden.

Through the years, I have always helped Nonny with her garden, and I have finally learned to enjoy the opportunity to spend time with her. Finally, I’ve realized that I could spend a lifetime doing this. The art of spending so much time with something for so long, taking care of it, and eventually seeing it blossom is so beautiful. Then, the bloomed plant gets to go away to somebody who appreciates it and will take care of it. I long to make this process into a career, driven by my grandma’s love for plants and life.

My grandma has always been an inspiration and important figure in my life, and owning my own greenhouse and plant nursery would be my appreciation for her. I wish to put her love back into the world for everybody else and the earth’s benefit.

When asked about just what my dream job would look like, I think about owning my own business. Owning my own greenhouse and plant nursery would bring me so much joy. I would raise flowers and limited fruits and vegetables, selling them to people. Along with the plants, I would sell pots and soil to help people with their plant-raising journey. My number one thing to keep in mind while owning this business is to keep my plants healthy and do everything that is best for their growth and health instead of my time saved.

I have always loved the earth and putting back in our time and love we have received back into it. Raising plants would bring me so much joy just for the pure enjoyment of helping others and the earth. There will always be a part of my grandma in everything I do, and her love will help me thrive in my career and life.