The Effect of Distracted Driving on Children

"I have the right to live peacefully, my mom said"

Mustafa Kadhim - April 14, 2017

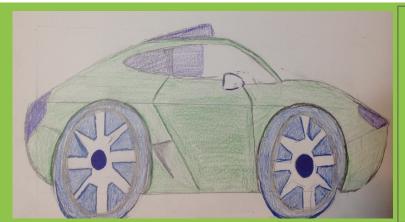
"I love the ocean, but I don't want to live beside it anymore," he says.



Introduction

Last month, there was a strange car accident that took place near my house. I can not imagine how horrible the accident was, it got me shocked. My parents never told me that the USA is not safe, so I was not aware of what I have seen. In fact, I thought it was a dream. Due to that, I have been in the hospital for nearly a month.

My Sketch of the car accident



This is my sketch of the accident. It was terrifying. There were some types of drinks and cans next to the destroyed car. I loved the car! I did not want that to happen. I will never forget it, it will affect my entire life.



Driving Is A Nightmare!

I am a student in Elementary school, I just came to the USA thinking it was a better place to live in. My family told me that they have experienced terrifying stuff back in Syria. They have lived during something called, "war". I do not understand exactly what that word means. But, my father used to tell me that it is like the game I always play on my mini iPad, candy crush! He said, "In order to win a candy crush game, you have to place three or more strawberries together, and they cancel each other out. It is just like that in Syria, three or more groups are put in Syria, fight, and make the country insecure." My mom also tells me that the reason why we left Syria is because Syria was not a safe place anymore. The number one reason for our coming to the USA is because it is safe. But my parents are lying, I saw a tree fallen, a car destroyed, and a person dead in the USA. To sum up, I am describing what I have seen to you through my story, sketches, and poem. I need you guys to tell me how can I forget the accident? I'm thinking of never driving in my whole entire life, but how will my life looks like? I will sit poorly in my house waiting for someone to come and get me food? Or get me something to play with? Anyways, this is my poem that might help you in understanding my situation better.

My mom told me it was a dream
My dad confirms, and asked
If I wanted an Ice cream?
I said no, I just saw a destroyed car in front of my eyes
I told my teacher, and it was real
Then I understood that my parents were aware of how I feel,

I've never thought my parents would lie!

But my teacher told me why,
I understood, but still didn't get why people try to die,
He was drinking, texting, and was a nice guy,
I did not want to hear the news,
Because good people don't deserve to die.

I felt miserable, depressed, and shy,
My mom was worried and always cry,
When I asked her why?
"I do not want you to ruin your inner white heart, as I've ruined mine"
"I did not understand, what?"
"Your two uncles died because of a distracted driving"
She said, and still whining.
"Mom, can you stop crying?"
"I can't my son, I am always dying,
I do not want you to feel like I am lying
I buy my happiness from your white little heart,
And do not want anything in the world to affect my happiness that I am buying."

"When I grow up I won't drive,
I do not want anybody to die,
I do not want my car to be destroyed,
Nor I want to destroy people's lives"
"You won't if you were driving carefully, son
I want to go with you to Funtown, Whole Foods,
And would like to see the small car that you have just won"

I've learned a lot from this accident,
I won't text, drink, or distract my driving,
I will drive, and be a role model to some kids,
Just because I want our world to be safer.