

As you read my thoughts now, you are no longer here with me, but always know that "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed because your seat will be empty." It will remain empty for it can only be reserved for you. I accept this fact with sadness, but as the depth of sadness enters my heart, I know your move to [REDACTED] is a step forward for you, and so I rejoice at the same time. Still I find myself sitting and asking myself why this had to happen. Until the answer is revealed though, I will be encouraged by the words whispered to my heart; "You will not be alone, for [REDACTED] will always be with you; though he is far away and you are here to stay, you will not be alone." I will be with you, too, my friend, and even though time and space separate us, you will always be in my heart. Whisper three words in the wind and I'll always be there for you.

A separation such as ours has happened only once before in my life. It was not easy then and I think it is even more difficult now. But I will persevere because God is with me. I know sometimes lately I have been a real royal pain in the butt (always wanting to be with you), but it was like I wanted to gain every last moment with you that I could. I apologize for this, for taking up time perhaps you wished to have spent with others...I hope that one day this will make more sense to you, that you will understand why I have difficulty putting all this into words now...perhaps read this again years down the road...

As I trace over my scattered thoughts, I think of yesterday. Do you remember where and when our relationship all began? You were a bright and energetic sixteen year old settling into the atmosphere of my English classroom. Something soon connected between the two of us and we were talking about non-academic topics. Remember I talked about calling you at home--you didn't think I would...then it happened. Your mother answered the telephone and you and I began talking. As I recall, you asked your mom to leave the room while we conversed about things in general but specifically about the means and manners of getting closer to girls. Time passed by and you were frequenting my home helping with chores --you worked diligently, never complaining and always willing to go out of your way to lend a helping hand--I'll never forget your kindness. Wood to be stacked, rocks to be picked, carpet to be removed, walls to be painted; and then the days of helping me with soccer and basketball; the evenings of playing one v one; cleaning the church at ridiculous hours; cards, chess, paint balling, the batting cage, softball games; track and the push for state; ping-pong, pool, golf, snowmobiling; movies, bowling, basketball games, the Sonics and the Mariners; [REDACTED]--"Can I get a cold glass of water?"; overnights at your house--late night talks and even talks in your sleep; drive-bys (i.e., [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]); breakfasts, lunches (K's, Sals Chang's, Zoopas, King Wa's etc.), dinners; wrestling and horsing around; dirt biking and tickets; rides to [REDACTED]--so many things to paint pictures of. I shall cherish these memories forever. I think I am close enough to you now, [REDACTED] that sometimes I think I hear your prayers and thoughts, and then I lie awake thinking about you...sometimes in sadness, sometimes in happiness; sometimes concerned, sometimes worried, but always confident. You have a level head on your shoulders and a strong belief in our Savior. These two things alone will enable you to be very successful. But you have many other attributes that complement your sensibility and faith--courage, kindness, strength, physically and emotionally, loyalty, a sense of humor, intelligence, morals, standards, integrity, honor--and many more.

[REDACTED], you have a very bonafide and important future ahead of you. Please nurture it well. Don't forget [REDACTED]. He will persevere also, but this change is difficult for him (as I know it must be for you). But as you embark towards new and exciting adventures with new close and dear friends, [REDACTED] will be alone. I don't share this to burden you but to try and help so I can watch the two of you hold on to something very precious-- a youthful friendship that could last for a lifetime even though space may keep you apart somewhat. You are more skillful (talented, too) at doing this--[REDACTED] is still learning. Write to him; invite him over to do things--come over when you can to spend just time with him. The [REDACTED]s having a cabin nearby should assist in this endeavor and it will give the [REDACTED] and yourself a break from each other, too---Something that will help to keep that relationship healthy and growing. I give you a lot of credit, [REDACTED], because you have thick skin; yet I know underneath you hurt some, too. You have made a good choice; I know you will work diligently to try and make it work. However, if God decides you should return, be careful not to let your pride stand in the way. Whatever your decision becomes, I will support you 110%; please always remember that.