Imagine lying in a gutter, near death, discarded and unloved. People step over, uncaring and disgusted. A small woman stops, takes the hand of the dying man, and tells him he is wanted and assures him of his value until his last breath. This woman is Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her single-handed efforts to reach out to the poorest of the poor, and minister to the sick and dying, make her a person I want to emulate.

Mother Teresa’s selfless personality is unparalleled. She always put others before herself, and challenged people to do the same. Also, she physically and emotionally touched the untouchables of Calcutta. Most importantly, she directly helped the people of my own culture in West Bengal.

Although Mother Teresa achieved great success, she was forced to deal with significant adversity. She was criticized by some for bringing negative attention to Calcutta. Additionally, she faced the struggle of working with the sick and dying, and providing them with care and love. She later admitted in her writings that these challenges caused her to question her own faith. However, she persevered in her faith and commitment to God, and opened a hospital for lepers, and founded the Missionaries of Charity. The finest acknowledgement of her actions was the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mother Teresa’s miraculous works helped shape me into the person I am today. She inspired me to volunteer at local shelters, and taught me about global awareness. I have learned that I should always make others feel wanted, especially strangers. I learned stories about Mother Teresa’s miraculous works from my family in Calcutta. They saw
her kindness and the good she did for the destitute. She touched the people of my heritage and lived her life with love and compassion.

The legacy of Mother Theresa lets us hope for a world filled with peace and compassion where strangers are welcome and are accepted. Imagine that love, care, and kindness were the words we used to describe our world.

Imagine.