

My neighbor, Roy

In March 2001, our family moved to a new neighborhood. This is where we met our neighbor, Roy Sawyer. Roy is 83 years old and he lives alone. Roy's wife died in 2000. Roy lost his only child in 1983. He had been married for a long time and his daughter died from a sickness that she had all her life. We have become very close to Roy because he really doesn't have any family here. He only has a brother-in-law that lives in town. Meeting Roy has opened my family's eyes on the true meaning of the holidays, particularly Christmas. We have adopted Roy as part of our family. He stills lives alone. However, my mom cooks for him occasionally and goes and cleans his home when needed. Anything that Roy may need help with, we are always there. Sometimes he just stops by and visits. At first, I often wondered why Roy was always coming by and why my mom would always invite him over and as time has passed by, I know why. He just needs someone to talk to and keep him company. He doesn't have anyone to talk to at home like we do.

This tree in the picture symbolizes my family. The decorations on the tree represent all the different people that we meet in life and keep as longtime friends, like Roy. This is what makes this my "perfect" Real Christmas Tree. As I have gotten older, this is when I have truly understood the true meaning of Christmas. It is not about the receiving of the presents, it's all about giving to those who don't have, like Roy, who lost his family, however has become part of ours.

Brian W. Talley
Duncanville, TX
Age 15