

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Name/Code

Date

Autobiography of a Young Chef

My name is Sarah Williams, and I am twelve years old. I live in Portland, Oregon, with my parents and my younger brother, Danny, who will eat anything I put in front of him, which makes him my favourite person to cook for. I go to Lincoln Middle School, where my favourite subjects are science and art — though if you ask my teachers, they will tell you my best subject is finding ways to connect everything back to food.

Cooking has been part of my life for as long as I can remember, and most of that is because of my grandmother, Nana Rose. She came from New Orleans and had a way of cooking that was less about recipes and more about instinct — a handful of this, a pinch of that, taste as you go. When I was five years old she let me stand on a step stool beside her and stir the cookie dough. When I was seven she taught me how to make her cornbread from memory. By the time I was ten I was making Sunday breakfast for the whole family on my own: eggs, toast, sliced fruit, and once, very ambitiously, homemade waffles that came out slightly burnt but were eaten anyway.

Now I cook at least three times a week. I have a notebook where I write down every recipe I try, including notes on what worked and what I would change next time. So far I have filled two notebooks completely. My specialities are pasta dishes and anything involving cheese, but I am currently teaching myself to make sushi, which is harder than it looks. My mother says the kitchen looks like a science experiment when I am finished. She is not wrong, but she always comes back for seconds.

My dream is to open my own restaurant one day. I have already decided it will be small — maybe fifteen tables — and the menu will change with the seasons. I do not know yet exactly where that restaurant will be or how long it will take me to get there. What I do know is that I have been working toward it since I was five years old on a step stool in my grandmother's kitchen, and I do not plan to stop.

