Name Essay

Haleigh Pannell

Theatre 101 11 am

There are about twenty-eight different ways to spell the name Haleigh, and my spelling is not the most common or popular way. That often leads to letters, email, and even birthday cards being addressed to a simpler version of my name. Unfortunately for other people attempting to spell my name, it does not follow the “i before e except after c” rule, making it that more difficult. But my parents did not really care about that, they wanted my name to be strong, feminine, and unique. Originally my name was spelled Haeleigh, but my grandmother refused to let them do that because it looked too much like hallelujah, so they took out the first e and that was that.

The decision of my name came from the glory of Haley’s Comet, which graced the skies during my birth year of 1997. My dad was at a fantasy draft party, when they took a pause to watch the comet, and my dad said, “If I ever have a daughter, I’m going to name her after that comet because she will be that rare, and that beautiful.” Later that night, he received a call from my mom that she was pregnant with their second child. Even though they didn’t know I was a girl until I was born the name had already been decided. My mom wanted to name me Corinne, because she is French Canadian and in French, “cor” means of the heart. So, my parents compromised and made Corinne my middle name. My birthday is two days before Christmas, so my parents went back and forth about the pronunciation of my name. Whether it was going to sound the way it is spelled, which is Raleigh, NC with an H, making my name Holly. Or, to keep it pronounced Hailey like the comet. They ended up deciding on Hailey because they didn’t want people to always associate me with Christmas because of my birthday and my name. The name Haleigh means “a beautiful meadow”, but for my parents it means a beautiful comet.