Valentina, a freshman, new to Sayville and new to the United States arrived to my classroom without a stitch of English but an endearing smile and thirst to learn unlike anything I’ve seen. Valentina did not allow the language barrier to stand in her way, nor daunt her; each day, Valentina arrives to class with that smile and raises her hand for clarification or to answer a question. From the simplest to the most challenging assignments, Valentina approaches each with ardent motivation and effort. Among many, one day stands out in my mind when Valentina verbally searching and choosing her words so very carefully explained the importance of family and we, as a class, were so touched by her heartfelt achievement. Here it is April and Valentina writes and speaks English beautifully. Valentina, your enthusiasm and dedication to learn is truly inspirational.

Given this 16TH day of May, 2017

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Assistant Principal

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Nominator