

# Elijah Bell, 14, writes about his mother

My mother is a strong, independent, African-American woman. She's not just my mother, she is also my role model and my best friend. I trust her more than I trust myself.

She has sacrificed so much in her life for me and my siblings. Her children come first before anything else in the world. She always made sure we had a meal to eat and clothes on our backs.

My mother is the wisest and most experienced person I know. Her intelligence made me who I am today and its one of the things I am most grateful for. It took me years to realize that all the times my mom would punish me or yell at me she was trying to teach me an important lesson. Each lesson would later help me out in my life. Now I tell my mom every day how much I appreciate her.

To me my mom is like a super hero, she doesn't



Elijah Bell with his mother, Jacqueline Bell, at his sister Elise's graduation from Richmond High School in 2009. SUPPLIED PHOTO

stop bad guys from hurting me or save me from burning buildings. What she does is more important than that. She keeps me safe at the most dangerous of times and teaches me right from wrong so I can stay away from those bad people and not make the wrong decisions.

When kids at the high school ask me if I drink, smoke, have sex, or do drugs I always say no. That's when they ask me

## ON THE WEB

Comments from Elise and Elaine Bell with this story at [www.pal-item.com](http://www.pal-item.com).

why not and I say the same thing every time. I don't want to experience any of those things while I'm in high school. My education is more important to me than a quick high or a few moments of pleasure. I don't want to ruin my good future that I plan to have.

My mom taught me common sense. I made a promise to my mom that I will never do any of those four things and that's a promise I plan to keep. I don't want to become another one of those kids you see in the news that got arrested for making a bad choice. I don't think it's worth going through so much for so little.

So when the kids at my school laugh at me and call me "white," I let them. I know 10 years from now

*"She is ... my role model and my best friend."*

ELIJAH BELL, AGE 14

when I look back at my life I'm not going to regret a thing. I listened to my mom when she told me not to do something and I'm thankful of her for doing it.

I'm proud of the person I am today and I would never want to change who I am. Instead of being like most kids who talk back to their parents and never listen to them. Screaming at them saying I hate you and blaming them for their own mistakes.

I want to thank my mom for what she has done in my life. It's a blessing that God gave me her as a mother because I couldn't dream of a better parent or a better family to be a part of. This is why I love my mom and I want to show her how great she is for Mother's Day.

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