

Dear Girls Side,

This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year at camp, and I believe that beauty is best seen with your eyes closed. If you stop and close your eyes right now and listen to the heartbeat of camp, and the breath of the wind, and heat from the girls sitting next to you. You will feel something so much more beautiful and powerful than your eyes will ever see.

Camp is like a human being, not only alive, but living. We are all a part of her beautiful body, helping her to function with flawless movement. Camp to me is the people inside her, helping her work and making her into a champion.

When there is drama at camp, no matter how insignificant it may be, it's like a cancer to camp. We're killing this beautiful girl over petty things. Camp, to me, is finding peace and alliance with others and within yourself.

Sometimes at camp, you get scared. Whether it's of something like jumping off the glob, or opening up to your cabinmates, it's all the same. I'm afraid and you're afraid and we're always going to be afraid because that's the point. What you need to tell yourself is that it's O.K. to be afraid, but there comes a time when that fear becomes inferior to living your life to its full extent and taking camp's body and your own to its highest limits. Then once you think you've reached as far as you can, take another step because our years here at camp are limited.

These girls sitting next to you are irreplaceable, but temporary. One year you'll have to go a summer without them. Camp to me is not only your friends, but the memories made with your friends and of them, because once you leave here, you can't just dispose of your summers at camp. They have to stay with you. You have to learn from them, because otherwise, what's the point of coming? A tan line that will fade with time anyways? Learning to play a new sport? No. Sure, all those things are fun, but you have to take camp to the next level. Camp, to me, is that next level.

Love,