

TRUE TEEN STORY

Logan is proud that he made it through such hard times. He has a favorite quote from the movie *Rocky Balboa*: "It ain't about how hard you hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

VOCABULARY QUIZ

ACTIVITY: INFERENCES

VIDEO

READ 180 LESSON

Vocabulary

dreaded: was afraid of

foster care: a system in which children are cared for by people who are not their legal parents

advocate: someone who speaks or acts on behalf of another person

biological: related by blood

character: traits and features that make up someone's personality

Adopted at 19

After growing up in foster care, Logan was homeless and alone. Then his life suddenly changed—he was adopted.

The little boy **dreaded** special events at school. Other kids' parents came for graduations or open-house days. His did not. The boy, then named Seth, never said why.

He hid the fact that he was in **foster care**. From age 7 on, he lived in a series of foster homes. At 18, he was on his own. Then he became homeless.

Now 19, he has a new home—and a new name: Logan Hunt. He was adopted this year by Ara and Robert Hunt. That's when he changed his name.

This is the story of how Logan found a family.

Lonely Years

"Growing up in foster care was really hard," says Logan. "You feel this separation from other people. You feel different."

In his foster homes, Logan never felt like he

belonged. He felt sad and angry. He'd see parents with their kids in the park and think, *I wish I had that*. "The more I started wanting, the more I got angry," he says.

Logan didn't share his feelings. The adults in his life had often left without warning. So he didn't trust anyone to care about him.

"I didn't let anyone in," he says.

On His Own

Logan was a junior in high school when he left foster care. He tried to support himself. He worked at a fast-food restaurant. But soon he was sleeping in his car. He had nowhere else to go.

Logan called Virginia Barrett. She was Logan's court-appointed special **advocate**. She was the



Logan, in green, with his family. From left, his dad Robert, sister Siara, mom Ara, sister Shyann, and brother Cody.

only adult who had been there for him since childhood.

Barrett helped Logan get an apartment. She also tracked down his **biological** sister, Shyann. Shyann was 12. She had been adopted as a baby by Ara and Robert Hunt. Barrett contacted the Hunts. She asked if they would like to meet Logan.

At first, they said no. They didn't know Logan. They wanted to keep Shyann safe.

But then a TV news show aired an interview with Logan. Robert saw it first. "I was just knocked down," says Robert. "I saw good **character** in him."

Warmth and Love

Before they could meet,



"He was such a sweet boy," says Virginia Barrett of Logan, shown here at age 7.

Logan was hurt in a car crash. Ara went to his home. She took care of him.

That night, they talked. "We really connected," Logan says. The next morning it was time for her to leave. "Do you think by any chance I could go home with you?" he asked.

She said yes.

That day, Logan met Shyann for the first time. He couldn't believe how much they looked alike.

Logan talked with the Hunts. "I could feel the warmth, I could feel the love," he says. "It felt like family to me." The Hunts felt the same way. Soon, Logan moved into their home in Rockwall, Texas.

Logan's life has been transformed. "I feel a change in me," he says. "I feel stable. I feel normal." He's starting to trust again.

Logan graduated from high school in June. This time, his parents were there. So were his siblings and grandparents. "It was amazing," he says.

—Sarah Jane Brian



Left: Logan with Virginia Barrett; Below: Logan surrounded by family at his high school graduation in June

