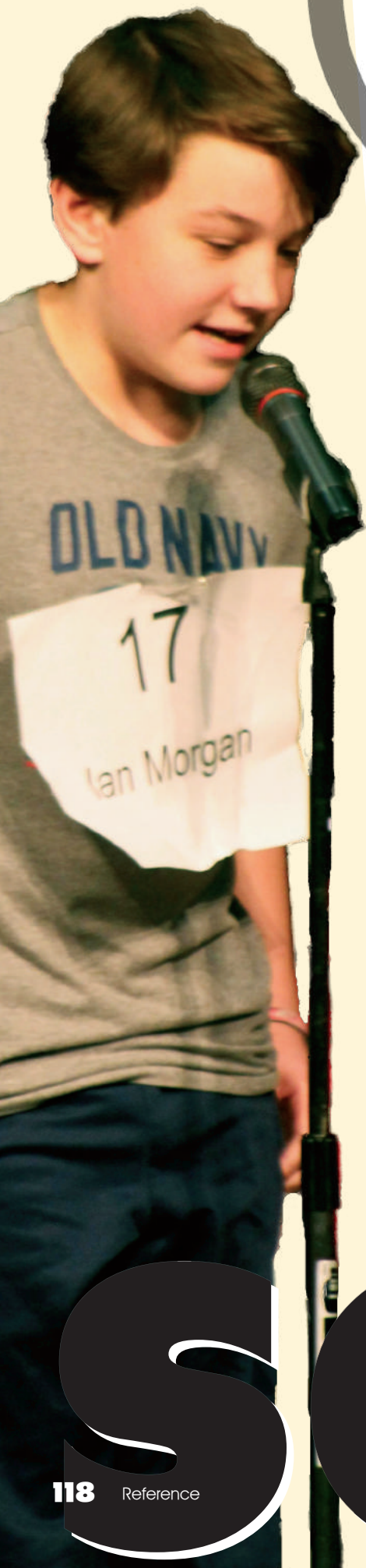


The biggest lesson that I learned this year, is to not take anything for granted and to be grateful for what you have.
-Quinn Barry (7)



SOME

for us



I'm barely hanging on during this chaotic roller coaster ride. You know what I mean? This is hard and all so weird! The kid you used to play on the swings with, you're now crushing on, and there is some kind of awkwardness every time you speak. Now, when you sit by each other in math and even glance that way, your face heats up and your hands start to sweat.

I mean, it's everything all at once. You get taller. Your feet get bigger. You finally grow into your head. Now that you have braces, things are constantly getting caught on them--even your clothes. You are growing up, but not grown yet. You think you know everything, but really know nothing. You want to be independent from your parents, but need their money. Kids are mean and think of comebacks in seconds. But we are here, every day, living it and along for the ride together.

As teenagers we complain about "life being hard" and the "hard times we go through" but this year we truly did experience heavy things that only adults should face. Through it, though, we learned that we were stronger than we thought. As a school and with family and friends to support us, we managed it. Look, we're all still figuring it out. We mess up, make mistakes, get in fights, apologize, and try again, but we've done it together. There's something great about being a part of something bigger than ourselves.

s to be involved in...
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