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Let a single rose symbolize a unique personal trait. Let a carnival of roses shape an individual into a unique personality. Four years ago, I was shy, quiet, and reticent. I lacked self-confidence and trust while my strong voice was hidden deeply beneath politeness. You may wonder how a self-conscious girl like me, can be standing before seven complete strangers today, making this speech?

Well, here is where my story begins with my carnival of roses. The first rose I encountered at Benson High School was when I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried out for the volleyball team. There, I learned that friendship, encouragement, and confidence are three key characteristics that make up a good team. Through this experience, I gained friendship by bonding with my teammates. From friendship, my teammates provided me encouragement every single time I stepped onto the court. These two characteristics have allowed me to gain confidence to play vigorous volleyball games.

For the past four years, I have participated in many volunteer programs. However, the most memorable one was through Benson's American Red Cross Club. Through the volunteer event, "Together We Prepare Neighborhoods," our team's purpose was to educate families about fire safety to prevent disasters. This experience has enabled me to see that simple tasks can make huge differences. Helping families in this event has inspired me to continue to help people in the future. I've learned that providing a carnival of roses to others can provide more satisfaction than receiving roses.

Other than these major roses that I have accepted and given out, there are numerous other roses that I would love to share with all of you wonderful judges today. However, due to the time constraint, I do have to end this speech soon.

All of us will receive our own carnival of roses; however, what we make out of our bouquet depends on us. One day, I hope to become a pediatric nurse and give back to my community. What about you? What will you create from your own bouquet?

At this present moment I am standing before you, hoping to receive the honor of representing Benson High School as Rose Festival Princess. This opportunity would be the perfect rose to add to my carnival of roses.

Thank you!