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*Tears of a Tiger*, by Sharon M. Draper, is a jaw dropping story that will make you realize just how valuable your life is. Andrew Jackson (Andy) is a 17 year old basketball player who is struggling with how to cope with the loss of his best friend, Robert Washington (Rob). With nowhere to turn Andy takes the coward’s way out.

On November 8th, after a victorious win for the Hazelwood High School basketball Team, Robert Washington, Andrew Jackson, and B.J. Carson were in a car accident, which resulted in the tragic death of Robert Washington. When they returned to school there was a grief counselor to talk to the students. Andy started to feel that the tragedy was his fault. Andy was assigned to a personal grief counselor. At first he wasn’t really interested in it. Then it started to help him out a little.

Andy is depressed all the time, and it seems that counseling is only helping for a brief second. Whenever Andy sees something that reminds him of Rob it upsets him. Andy and Keisha went to the mall, and Andy saw the Santa Clause and immediately became depressed. Keisha’s mom came and got the two of them, and took them home. Keisha gets fed up with Andy’s depression and attitude, so after his “strip tease” and awful attitude at the talent show she decides to end things. Andy’s depression spirals out of control from there. He feels like he has nobody.

After Andy tucks his little brother in bed, he calls Keisha. After him and Keisha hang up he falls asleep and dreams about Rob. Rob tells him it is his fault and asks him when he is coming to keep him company. After the dream Andy feels like he doesn’t deserve to be alive. One morning Andy attempts to go to school, but turns around and goes home. Andy sits in his room with a loaded gun. He begins to think about things and moments later, takes the cowards way out, by committing suicide. Andy’s little brother Monty sees the blood on the ceiling. His mom rushes to his room to see her oldest son lying in a pool of blood.

Andy’s parents get a divorce. Monty says they pay him more attention now that his brother is gone, but he misses him a lot. He visited his grave to tell his brother everything that had happened since he’d been gone.