Dear friends and family,

It is my and Ayesha’s pleasure to welcome you on this joyous day. Shireen graduated from high school on May the 22nd. We are gathered today to celebrate this milestone in her life.

Shireen was the first grandchild in the family and remained the only one for a couple of years. And looking back I think she immensely enjoyed the love and attention showered by her grandparents. Than at the age of 2 she left all that tender loving care behind and moved with us to South Africa. Recently I was looking at her pictures from her early days in South Africa. She seems to be the happiest child in the world with the cutest smile. And that is a hallmark of Shireen. She does not let anything dampen her spirits. She always has a smile and is in high spirits.

After 4 years we moved to United States. She seemed to be as excited as we were. She took this move in her stride and it took her only a couple of days to settle down and make friends in her new school in St. Louis. She is a very social person. When we moved from St Louis to Lexington, a small town of 4000 people, and then to Leawood she made these transitions with ease. In addition to being social she is a confident young women. When she was in 3th grade she went to a 1 week away from home Girl Scout camp. She came home and proudly told us that she was the only child who did not become homesick and cry. In Lexington we had woods behind our house and she would explore them with the neighbor’s kids for butterflies, turtles and rabbits. She has continued this hobby in high school going all over Kansas looking for snakes and doing newt research with her environmental club.

She has made us proud with her academic achievements and extra curricular activities.She was a member of the debate club, winning several awards in debate contests . She was in the marching band and symphonic band playing the trumpet and berritone. She was a junior varsity cross country runner.

She has been a very responsible teen ager. She has contributed several hundred hours of community service winning Presidential community service award. She has made us very proud by her academic achievements. She was on the presidential honor roll in middle school and Principal honor roll in high school. She is a National Merit finalist.

The fact that she has chosen to go to Texas, we will not hold against her. Rice is an excellent school and has awarded her the **Trustee Distinguished Scholarship.**