**Name: Annabel Benneth**

**Class: JSS 3**

**School: Owerri City Secondary School, Owerri, Imo State.**

**Essay Title: “If I Could Invent Something New”**

My dad has always been my hero. He is a pillar of support and beckon of hope in my academic pursuit. My dad was struck by polio virus at an early age and thankfully he survived polio and has always been strong for our family by making sure that every necessary needs of the family are met. But now, he's struggling with Post Polio Syndrome (PPS). It's hard to see him in pain and discomfort. I wish I could invent something to help him and others like him.

If I could invent something new, I would invent a wearable leg brace that provides mobility support for people with disabilities like my dear father. This invention will allow individuals with limited mobility to walk and move around with ease, giving them Independence and confidence. I would like to create a special wearable leg brace that combines comfort, support, and technology. My dad supports his withered right leg with his hand and sometimes with clutches and that makes his movement uncomfortable. On several occasions, he has felled to the ground. I would like to make something better. My invention, "StepForward," would be lightweight, adjustable, breathable and affordable. It would have sensors and artificial intelligence to help muscles work better.

My dad's efforts to raise awareness about polio and PPS inspire me a lot. He even participated in Polio Week at Cedar Crest Hospital in Abuja in 2019, where German doctors confirmed his PPS diagnosis. Seeing him try so hard motivates me to work harder on my intending invention. StepForward would change lives. My dad could walk without pain or fear of falling. He could play with us as he used to, play his favourite sport (table tennis) and enjoy life again. People with polio, PPS, or other mobility issues could be able to move around freely without clutches or walking sticks.

As the quote says "Each gives what he has or can" I may not have the necessary skills or resources expected of a 12year old to embark on this invention or to solve all the problems of the world, but I can use my creativity and imagination to make a difference in the lives of others. By inventing this wearable leg brace which I called "StepFoward". I hope to give people with disabilities the little gift of mobility and freedom. I know it won't be easy as a young girl, but I am determined. I will research, test, and learn from my mistakes. I will seek help from experts and stay focused on my goal and by God’s grace; I will be able to do it.

If I could invent something new, it would be StepForward. It would show that with compassion, creativity, and hard work, we can make a difference. Let's take the first step towards a brighter future and make people with mobility issues happy again.