

Grammy's House

by

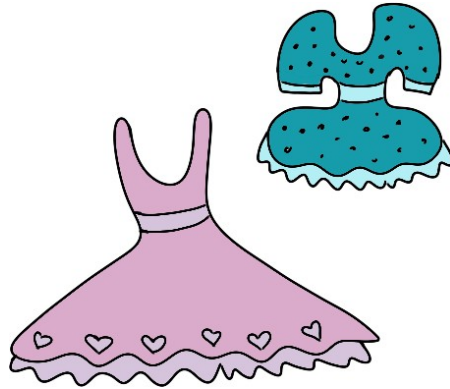
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Author's Purpose

The purpose of this story is to document real Louisiana stories for young children. There are so many young students in Louisiana, and it is very important that these children experience storytelling that expresses their own culture. True Louisiana culture is very different from lots of the stereotypes that are shown in most Louisiana literature. I feel it is important for young students to read about real Louisiana culture. I would classify this book as a true story based on my childhood where I spent lots of time at my grandparent's house with my sister and my cousins. This is a story of my life growing up in Southern Louisiana. This story is appropriate for all young children, and I believe it is important for young children to hear real stories about Louisiana. This is a dramatic and humorous retelling of events in my childhood, it is lighthearted and fun for young children to read!

Grammy's House



As a seven-year-old, I was a natural leader. I am the oldest on both sides of my family, so I loved to be in control and in charge of my younger cousins. I always wanted to play school. I was always the teacher because I was the oldest. In school, my “bossy” attitude often got me in trouble. However, I find that as I get older, the qualities that made me “bossy” are now that qualities that show my leadership skills. Being called “bossy” all the time as a child often ruined my self-esteem, and I often hesitate to take charge of things because I don’t want to be called “bossy”. I’ve learned to accept that I am a natural leader and being a leader does not categorize someone as bossy!

When I was younger, I spent lots of time with my younger sister, Cameryn, and my younger cousins, Celia and Lenore. I am two years older than Cameryn, and she is two years older than Celia. Lenore is five years younger than Celia, so we didn’t play with her as much when we were kids because she was a baby. We

spent lots of time during the summers at our grandparent's house. Our grandma is called Grammy, and our grandpa is called PawPaw!

Our grandparents live in **Youngsville, Louisiana**. When we were growing up, Youngsville was a very small and quiet town, but since then Youngsville has grown quite a bit! During the summers, we would play at my grandparent's neighborhood park, or we would pretend to be mermaids in the swimming pool. Grammy had a very large yard full of flowers and trees and we would help her garden some days. Grammy would let us play outside all day until the streetlights came on. Once the streetlights came on it was time to go inside, otherwise the **mosquitos** would start to bite us!

When I think about my grandparent's house, I think about how cold it always was. My grandparents lived in a small house and my grandmother always kept the air conditioner on very low. I remember my sister and I sleeping under stacks of blankets because we would get so cold at night. I think of how their house smelled like floral candles and air fresheners. I hear the television playing in the living room while we played, and I can taste the candy from the glass dish that my grandmother kept on the kitchen counter. There are a lot of memories of my childhood that come to mind when I think of my grandparent's house.

If we weren't outside playing, we were inside playing dress up! Grammy loved to sew, she created so many dresses and costumes for us to play with, and

her guest bedroom served as our dress-up playroom! The closet was filled with all the dresses, leotards, and tutus that Grammy made for us!

There weren't many rules at Grammy's house, but one rule was that we always had to clean up our messes! Grammy would not let us take our any new toys or games unless we cleaned up our mess. We often made very big messes while playing dress-up. We would take out all the clothes and change costumes many times while playing. Since we were so little, we didn't care much about making a mess, but Grammy made sure that we cleaned everything up when we were done. She always checked the guest room before we left to make sure we left the room just how we found it!

One summer day, while we were playing at Grammy house, she told us that she was going to take us the **Acadiana Zoo** after lunch! We loved to go to the zoo, so we were super excited! We still had plenty of time to play before lunch so all three of us decided to play dress-up together. We took out all the clothes and pretended to be princesses, fairies, acrobats, and anything else that we could think of. By the time it was time for lunch, all the costumes were out of the closet and on the floor. Grammy came in the room and told us to quickly clean up so that we can leave and go to the zoo. We were way too excited to go to the zoo, and we didn't really care about the mess, so we just shoved all the costumes into the closet without hanging them properly.

We changed back into our regular clothes and went into the kitchen to eat lunch. Grammy would make lunch for us every day, grilled cheese sandwiches and apple slices. We finished lunch and hopped in the car to go to the zoo!

As a kid, I loved the zoo! My favorite animal was (and still is) monkeys, so my favorite exhibit was the monkey exhibit. The cage went all the way around, so I could watch the monkeys climb above my head. I loved to ride the train because it would take us out into the pasture that had all the zebras. Grammy would let us pay a quarter for a handful of food to feed the zebras. The zoo also had a giant petting zoo that had lots of goats, sheep, and pigs. We loved going into the snake exhibit and seeing all the scary and slimy creatures.

Although we loved seeing the animals, our favorite part of the zoo was the gift shop! It was decorated to look like a safari on the inside, with fake vines and plants everywhere. The gift shop had tons of figurines and stuffed animals. It also had many candies and treats.

It was now time to leave the zoo. The zoo was far from Grammy's house, but we didn't mind because we loved riding in Grammy's car. We would roll the windows down and listen to country music with the wind blowing through our hair.

Once we got back to Grammy's house, it was almost time for our dad to pick us up and bring us home. Grammy told us that she was going to double check to

make sure that the guest room was all clean. We knew that if she opened that closet door we would be in lots of trouble. We convinced Grammy to let us “play” for five more minutes before our dad arrived. Grammy told us that we could play, but she didn’t want us taking out any of the costumes because it would take us too long to clean up afterwards.

We ran into the guest room and shut the door. We only had five minutes to take all the clothes out of the closet, put them back onto their hangers, and hang them up neatly in the closet. If we didn’t get this room clean, we would definitely be punished, and we wouldn’t be allowed to play dress-up anymore! We took all the clothes out of the closet and split them into three piles, one for each of us. We quickly began hanging each of the costumes onto to the hangers and hanging them neatly in the closet. Time was going by so quickly! We only had three minutes left and half of the clothes were still on the floor! Now there were two minutes left, still lots of clothes left! One minute! Thirty seconds! We heard Grammy’s footsteps coming down the hallways. We hurried and hung the last bit of the clothes up in the closet and shut the closet door right as Grammy opened the door!

We did it! We cleaned all the clothes up without getting caught! Now it was time to go home for dinner!

Vocabulary

Youngsville, LA- A small city in the state of Louisiana.

Zoo-siana- A zoo in Broussard, Louisiana.

Mosquito- A bloodsucking insect, common in Louisiana.

References

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2011). https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/standards---k-12-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=24665cc3_39

Social Studies

Standard 4: People, Land, Environment

1. 3.4.1 Compare and contrast the physical features of various regions of Louisiana
2. 3.1.3 Use distinctive vocabulary to sequence events related to Louisiana history
3. 3.4.6 Distinguish between urban, suburban, and rural communities in Louisiana

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2022). https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/k-12-ela-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=52b98a1f_38

ELA

Key Ideas and Details

1. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
2. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
3. Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Hamilton, A. (2022). Youngsville Continues to Grow in Numbers. News 15.

(2022). Zoosiana, Zoo of Acadiana.

Waltz, E. (2021). First Genetically Modified Mosquitoes Released in the United States

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Author's Bio

Carly O'Quain is a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has lived in Lafayette, Louisiana for her whole life. She enjoys reading, writing, and illustrating. Carly plans on getting her degree in Elementary Education and continuing her education to get a master's degree in special education.

