

Nonfiction Road Narrative

My family typically goes on a short family vacation over the summer every year. The trip as a whole is always however, in 2013, the trip was different. My family went on a road trip going from Houston Texas, all the way to California. The straight drive there would be twenty four hours or a day long which is why we made it a three day long road trip. There is more to this story than the great time I had with my family. It has taught me to love and appreciate the physical and emotional power cars hold.

The journey ahead of us was going to be long but very enjoyable. It was my mom, dad, brother, and two sisters crammed into one van. It did not help that my younger sister was only two years old at the time. My siblings and I did not know what the road trip would bring us as we had never gone on a car ride like this before. All our previous vacations were typically a four hour drive. My dad was the main driver with my mom being the replacement if he ever got too tired.

The first day was pretty much strictly a driving day as we traveled all the way from Houston, to the opposite side of Texas. On the opposite side of Texas, we would rest in Amarillo after a long day on the road. I can't recall much from this day, but this was likely because I was asleep during it. I say this because we left early in the morning to avoid traffic and to get more sleep for the next day's longer trip. I am not a morning person and I tend to feel a bit sick on long car rides. To combat both of these, I typically sleep while listening to music. When I was awake, I would mess with my siblings and they would do the same to me. I would poke them and constantly irritate them. We had gotten each other mad to the point where my dad threatened to cancel the trip as a whole. After that, we all had made an agreement to calm down.

The second day was where I found the most in the road trip. From Amarillo Texas, we took on the eleven hour drive to Chandler Arizona. Once again, I was asleep for the first few hours of the drive as we left early again, but I woke up when we made it into New Mexico. There we would stop at an Alien Museum and attraction. I remember initially feeling scared as I thought they were all very creepy looking. But as we explored more, my feelings began to shift from fear to awe. I began to think that the aliens were cool. In the museum, there were a variety of aliens, but they all had the general concept. They all had common features like big heads and large eyes. When we were on the way out we stopped by the gift shop. There we got inflatable aliens and an "Aliens Crossing Sign". Which is still held up in my room to this day.

The final stretch of our trip was from Chandler to Cypress California which was another five hour drive. Because of the shorter time, we were able to spend more time with my family in Arizona as they had allowed us to stay the night before at their house. We were able to connect with each other and spend a good amount of time together. Additionally, I remember being amazed with how large their house was compared to mine. Though this idea also scared me at night because it was dark and I was unfamiliar with the house set up. I was not able to see anything and I had nothing to illuminate the room. I simply just tried to close my eyes and go to sleep as fast as possible.

The actual drive after this was very tortuous for my siblings and I. We were all very excited to stay in California for a few days. Our excitement had us all anxious to finally get there. We did not know what we would do there, but we were all aware it was a cool place to be. On the way there, while driving through Arizona, I remember taking

in all the different environments. For the most part, it was nothing like what I would normally see in Houston. The terrain we traveled on was much more open and not filled with anywhere near as many buildings. I was not aware of the plateau areas but they caught my attention and I thought they were so cool.

California was the best part of our family road trip. There we met with my grandparents who flew over there. Over the next few days that we were there, we continued to drive more as we stayed in Anaheim, but we also went to explore other cities and areas close within the state. We went to visit Hollywood, where we saw the star walk and all the dress up characters. I even remember taking photos with a Captain America look alike there. We also visited the Haunted Queen Mary Ship in San Diego. I remember my older sister and I being afraid of ghosts in the halls of the ship. We were both very happy when we finally left. Looking back upon it, the fact we were able to explore the ship is so cool to me. Especially given how old it is.

My favorite part about this vacation was the theme parks we went to. My parents were able to save a great amount of money and give my siblings and I a summer we would always remember. They gave us the opportunity to go to Disneyland, Universal Studios, and Legoland. The only down part of this was that I was still too short to ride on the truly thrilling rides, but this sparked a new ambition for me to go on every rollercoaster I could when I was tall enough. At Disneyland, the greatest part was when my older sister, brother, dad and I kept going on splash mountain over and over again. We did this while my little sister, mom, and grandparents repeated the Little Mermaid Ride. At Universal Studios, the most memorable part for me was not the rides, but being able to meet Spider-Man at Universal Studios. This was because was and still is my

favorite superhero to this day. Lastly, the greatest part of Legoland was being able to get my Lego driver's license.

The large amounts of time on the road and in a car helped me realize many things. I learned that cars were powerful physically and emotionally. Through the road trip I was able to get closer to my family, both literally and figuratively. We were able to make many great memories on the road trip and after it. This was all thanks to the car we used to complete the road trip.

Along with the emotional capabilities, our trip highlighted the physical capabilities of cars. I found it thrilling that a simple vehicle could traverse a large family great distances. Not only this, but also give each of us our own sense of space inside the car. It allowed us to see parts of the country we have never seen before. It endured different terrains and many different environments.