

**Taner**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Covington School

I was on the plane to Cyprus for 15 hours. The sun was shining onto the white American Airlines plane. My family and I peeked at the small island underneath the soft clouds. When we finally got out of the plane, the Cyprus wind was blowing into our faces. After a long taxi car ride we arrived at our hotel and saw the glass entrance with wooden floors on the inside.

When we arrived at the Acapulco hotel, we spotted our grandparents on my dad's side waiting in front of the hotel entrance. Even though my grandpa had a white spiky beard, I knew he was smiling with excitement. Next to my grandpa was my grandma with a nice big smile on her face. The flowers on her dress matched the traits she showed, love and kindness. My excitement made me breathe as fast as the flash. When I ran to hug them it felt like the dramatic slow motion run in the movies. Over the next two weeks, my family and I went to the water park, restaurants, parks, parties, and shops.

A year and a half after my trip, the COVID pandemic started. Because of COVID I haven't been able to visit my grandparents for the past four years. This trip continues to impact me because I haven't been able to see my family since. Because of this experience, I learned to be grateful for the time I spend with my family. This lesson affects my everyday life. For example, I love playing board games with my family even more now, simply because of my gratitude for the time spent with them.