

Eloise
1st Place
6thGrade, Springer School

I perched on the edge of my seat, like a bird on a fencepost, awaiting our arrival at my grandparents' house which was named the "pleasure palace" by my family because it is spacious and has a swimming pool. I was fatigued from my lengthy road trip, and had a dose of nausea from staring at the small screen of my nintendo switch for hours. My eyes darted around from each window of the car, racking my memory from previous visits to see if I could recognize a sign or turn, but each house and road looked the same,

"We're almost here" My mom announced with a tone of anticipation in her voice, just by glancing at my sisters or parents you could tell we were all exhausted and hot from the two day 14 hour trip from Kenmore, Washington, to Los Altos, California. I was especially roasting in my sweatpants and a sweatshirt even with the AC blasting.

"Oh finally" I uttered as my sisters rang in with bird-like chimes of "yays" and "I'm so excited". My dad worked as a cancer scientist, and had found work in California, hence us traveling with a Uhaul with the rest of our belongings to Los Altos, in a Toyota Sienna, minivan. I felt like a turtle, with my house on my back.

As we turned a corner, a school came into view, with a sign reading "Springer Elementary". And the most surprising thing was that unlike Washington, California was sunny enough to have solar panels atop the parking lot, but also had Tesla charging stations, something you didn't regularly see back in Kenmore.

"This is where I went to school" My dad noted. We were going to live with my Nana and Poppy for a bit, because it was much easier than having to find a house, with the bonus that it was where my dad grew up, and it was close to his work. Suddenly, the "pleasure palace" came into view, along with a flood of the numerous memories made here throughout my life, such as rolling around my mini wheelbarrow, or making crepes with my Poppy. As we finally pulled in, I heaved a big sigh, and was so eager to fly out of that door, I thought I would have exploded if I had to wait any longer. The car came to a halt and as everyone piled out like robots who ran out of fuel, drained and drowsy, Our Nana came and smothered us in her big bear hugs.

"Would you like to go in the pool?" My Nana asked, reading our hot faces and seeing it was something we could definitely use.

“YES” My sisters and I sighed, excited that this overwhelming feeling of heat would finally disintegrate to be replaced with a blast of chilly, to balance the scale of the perfect body temperature. We raced inside with record-breaking speeds, we could have gotten an award for the fastest time for someone to put on a bathing suit.

“Come ON” My sister Ivy urged “open the pool!” The second the ash colored pool cover was pulled back, resembling a monster opening its mouth, we all jumped into the clear turquoise waters and floated around lazily like contented frogs after eating a feast of bugs, for most of the day after that.