



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 2001

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Alumnus/alumna

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

I am a pre-kindergarten teacher living in Waco, Texas. I work from home because the state of Texas had issued a shelter-in-place order that caused schools to shut down after Spring Break. I start my work day around 8 a.m. Students receive a video message from me each day via a digital blog platform called Seesaw, and today was no different.

At 9 a.m., I had a google meet video chat with our pre-k director and pre-k teachers in our district. We discussed planning for next year. Some teachers expressed concern about what would happen if we could not open as planned in the fall. I honestly have no idea how you could possibly enforce social distancing with 4 year-olds. At one point in the meeting, I muted the microphone so that I could finish the Mandarin Chinese checkpoint I was in the middle of doing via a program called Duolingo. Back in 2007 I lived in China, so when I found out that I'd be home by myself a lot during this COVID crisis, I thought brushing up on my Mandarin skills would be a good use of my time. I had even called my former track coach and his wife this week, who are from China and were both Hanover employees, to help me with my pronunciation.

After the google meet meeting, I reached back out to my director to see if she could help me troubleshoot how to send out invites to google meet. I had a previous attempt at using google meet with my pre-k class. Though the meeting was fairly successful, I had experienced some technical difficulties I was hoping to smooth out. I also relayed a bit of humor to my director about a teacher fail that I had when conducting this meeting. In google meet, the person who is talking will pop up on the screen. Well, I had the brilliant idea to end our meeting by singing the alphabet song together while using sign language as well. As we were singing, I realized this was a horrible idea because were faces were randomly popping up and invading the screen. It was a bit dizzying, but I couldn't stop it once it was in motion. I just had to laugh about my "teacher fail".

Walks have been part of my consistent routine! They have been a lifeline for me. Some days I walk by myself, other days I walk with a neighbor and her dog.

As a single lady, I have found the social distancing to be tolerable but also rather lonely at moments. Fortunately, there is a family in the neighborhood that has allowed me to use their home as an extension of my shelter in place environment as needed. For my own mental health, I've needed interaction. They also have four little girls. Around 1:00, one of the girls came down for a reading lesson. This also gave me my teacher fix and helped me feel useful and needed. I also spent time at my kitchen table responding to posts from my students. I give verbal feedback since most of them can't read yet. Later, I had all four neighbor girls down for a bit so they could play while their mom and dad went to a bookstore to pick up the mom's birthday gift. The girls played in my makeshift classroom and enjoyed stories and toys. We then went to their house for dinner. On the way to dinner, I stopped and chatted with my other Spanish-speaking neighbors who were sadly preparing for the passing of their sick mother. They had hired a mariachi band to come and play as her dying wish. Later, when the mariachi band pulled up, I recognized one band member as the father of one of my current students. I chatted with him for a

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moment too. Dinner was lovely, with corn on the cob and gluten free noodles and sauce. Later that evening, I curled up on my couch to begin my Bible reading as I've just joined a zoom community to read the Bible in 90 days. I felt quite content in my newly painted living room, which was a project I did this month for my own mental health, when a friend called who wanted to visit. She came over for just a brief visit and then left in the midst of a thunderstorm.

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What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

My last class in May was a Spanish theater class. Though this was a Spanish class we met in what was then the new science building.

Dr. Reynolds was my professor.

I liked the freedom we had with afternoons off.

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