



# "One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

---

Name: Gracia-Jean Darling

Class Year: 1993

---

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?**

HANOVER COLLEGE PROJECT - A Day in the Life....May 15, 2020

Life of a part-time working Mom with small children

Welcome to another day of "Stay at Home"! Instead of Sarah getting on the bus for Kindergarten at 7:45 am and dropping Ana at preschool at 9 am, Mommy and Daddy slept in (per usual now) til 8 am while girls watched YouTube videos on their tablets from 7-8 am.

After breakfast and getting dressed, I did/discussed a devotion, calendar and weather with the girls, then each had a turn "reading" with Mommy and a phonics book for about 15 minutes. I had printed out the worksheets from each girl's teachers to work on. Sarah's public school gives her 3 lessons a week (that each take her about 1 hour to do) and Ana's 3-day 4yo preschool class does 2 days of lessons. Sarah videoconferences with her teacher and classmates where each child can "share" what's on their mind for 1/2 hour on Tues, Wed, and Thursdays. Ana has preschool videoconference-lesson for 40 min on Wed and Friday. So, today is Friday and we have to be ready with her coloring and letter pages and show-n-tell of "something summer" by 11 am for preschool today. Mommy drinks coffee, reads/deletes emails and gives everyone some cereal for a snack about 10:30 am.

Daddy is upstairs doing his IT job remotely in our exercise room. He comes down about 11:30 so Mommy can run up to her bedroom office. Mommy/I am an estate planning and tax attorney who usually works from home while the girls are at school. Ana used to go M-W-F 9-2:30pm so Mommy could go workout and handle client work. Now, I haven't worked out since March 11th except walks with the girls (they bike with training wheels, scooter, wigglescar or run down the sidewalk up to 1/2 mile) or playing in the yard. My yard has thicker grass and less weeds than EVER!

Today, I open yesterday's mail since COVID's half life on paper is under 24 hours...mobile deposit two checks for legal work! Then, I respond to a few clients and send an estate planning package - Wills, power of attorneys, health care powers, a TOD deed and a letter to a client. I was daring and actually signed two estate planning packages with clients this week-- one on the back patio- all wearing masks and sitting 6 feet apart. The other couple sat in their car on the driveway while they signed everything on a clipboard, then passed it to me so I could sign and notarize and my husband could witness. I gave them back their copies in an envelope and will scan and email the rest to them. All my clients in senior living facilities cannot have visitors so most are waiting to sign...but nobody knows how long that will be, so I tell them how to carefully sign with two neighbors or the staff helping as witnesses. I am emailing as much as possible rather than mailing documents, but older clients have trouble opening the secure documents. I can notarize and file a Deed if they mail it signed back to me, then videoconference and confirm that they signed it. Luckily I got all my client tax returns done and delivered by the last day of normal school on March 13th. I don't get much client work done except nights and weekends.

This morning I discovered that we only have enough milk for tomorrow morning, so I call my Mom for a list of what she needs from the grocery since I have to go anyway! She is over 70 and immunosuppressed so she has not left home in two months except to drive over here and drop off or pick stuff up with NO contact. I put my phone and credit card and shopping list in my jacket pocket and head to the store. Shopping is an ordeal with Covid-19 around. The grocery is 1 mile north of Indianapolis/Marion County which is the hardest hit area of the state so far. I put my surgical-style paper mask on before I exit the car. At the entrance, I get a shopping cart from the "cleaned" side and go in. I was just here yesterday and the fruit and veggies were fully-stocked. I cannot believe it...half the veggie shelves are empty and various other items. Ohhh I forgot that it is Friday when many people get paid...so go shopping that morning! Mom asked for a bunch of fruit and veggies...I get an assortment from what they have and her other list items, plus my gallon of milk. Interesting, they are out of both hotdog and hamburger buns today, but they have a lot of fresh chicken breasts on Sale. I haven't seen this much chicken at any store since March! So I grab 2 5lb packages – one for Mom and one for us. Time to check-out and head home. (After I load the groceries and open my door, I reach in and grab the disinfectant for my hands and keys and phone even

before sitting down. I drop the mask on the backseat floor. (I'll retrieve it in a few days.)  
At home, I grab the disinfectant wipes. I carefully place the fruit and veggies of ours in the kitchen sink to wash, the can and boxed food in a paper grocery sack to leave for 1-3 days until the virus would have degraded, then disinfect and put our cold foods away. I called Mom on the way home to come get her stuff. I disinfect all of hers and put in some Amazon boxes in our garage for easy carrying. Then, I head up to the laundry room where I put everything from my hat to my shoes in the washing machine, then run take a shower and wash my hair, before returning to normal life and hugging my kids hello! Oops, a Moms group that I am in is having a 2 pm year-end videoconference... I'm a few minutes late.  
Afternoon is uneventful to play in the backyard and chalk color the driveway into a sandy beach.... Daddy makes a Mommy-favorite of Cajun chicken Maque Choux on rice for dinner with the fresh food!  
The kids go to bed by 7:30 pm after some reading and prayers and lively stuffed animal discussions. And Mommy can settle in to hear a friend who is a singer give his 9<sup>th</sup> "Couch Concert from our Couch to Yours" on Facebook Live, then talks to Daddy about the day's events and plans for Ana's 5 yo birthday next week which will be a "Frozen"(movie with two sisters- the younger one Anna) outside patio/drive-by Party for extended family some who will stay in the car and some who will wear a mask and stay 6-10 ft away from everybody (all but my Brother's family are senior citizens so we are scheduling each household at different hours of the afternoon) and Ana's party with friends had to be cancelled entirely. Then Mommy settles in with a craft beer (curbside delivered) and Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS Broadway musical since he is giving a free viewing of a different one of his shows each weekend available for only 48 hours.  
Good Night, tomorrow is the weekend and Mommy may actually get some work done if the rain holds off and Daddy can take the girls and their bikes for a few miles of biking around a nearby park!

By Gracia-Jean (Meyer) Darling, HC Class of 1993

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