



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2021)

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Describe your day on May 15, 2021. Tell us whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate hearing about concrete details -- What can you see and hear from where you are right now? What did you do for fun today? Did you cook or eat anything special? Did you work or do chores? Who did you spend time with? What did you learn?

I woke up pretty early because I had a shift at the Eiteljorg Museum in downtown Indianapolis from 9 to 5. I'm scheduled there all weekend, so I started my day by playing with my cat Remy for a little bit. He is hyper and loves to play, so I tried to wear out some of his energy before I left. I fed him breakfast and hid some treats in his favorite spots for him to find throughout the day. I made my lunch, just some leftovers from the previous night and some fruit. Remy continued to play, chasing my feet as I walked around the apartment getting ready. I live in a renovated school on the east side of town that was built in 1928, so the walls are pretty thick and I don't hear any of my neighbors unless they're in the hallways. I left for work, stopping at Starbucks on my way in. I'd rather visit one of the local coffee shops in Irvington, but Starbucks is easier because I can order ahead and I like their cold brew. On my way into work, Avery called me. Her family and my family are really close--we're not related, but we're basically family. She's 7 and recently discovered she can call me from her Echo. She told me all about her day and made me promise to give Remy lots of hugs when I got home. She loves him and constantly asks me to send her videos and pictures of him. Once I got to work, I got the registers all set up and ready for the day. Saturdays are our busiest days at the moment, but we've been pretty slow throughout the pandemic. We still require masks when in the building, and every visitor must have their temperature taken and sanitize their hands upon entering. Most people are fine with that, but we get the occasional visitor who refuses to wear a mask and we just ask them to leave. With the CDC lifting their mask recommendation for fully vaccinated adults, I was afraid we would have more people coming in without a mask and saying they were fully vaccinated. Regardless of that recommendation, I think we'll continue requiring masks. Marion County is also still under a mask mandate. We weren't as busy as I anticipated, so I spent the day finishing up some work for the digital Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. I'm working as an image specialist, so I try to find images in digital archives for every entry of the encyclopedia. Once I was done with that, I just spent my time on social media, catching up on whatever was going on--nothing particularly interesting. On my way home, I decided I didn't feel like cooking dinner so I stopped at my favorite Irvington restaurant, Heartbreaker. They have amazing burgers and fries, so I got that for carryout. When I got home, I fed Remy and sat down to eat my dinner. I normally just eat while I'm watching tv. I decided to start a new show my friend told me to watch, Letterkenny, on Hulu. I'm sick of watching the same shows over and over again, so I was happy to get the recommendation. I did a couple chores around the house that I've been putting off--dishes, taking my trash and recycling out, and emptying the litterbox. I continued watching tv, and eventually fell asleep, only to wake up when Remy knocked a plant off my plant stand onto the floor. He didn't break anything, so I just had to clean up some dirt and put the plant back in the pot. He's a little mischievous so I wasn't surprised when he knocked it over. I decided it was

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probably time for bed, so I showered and made sure my work stuff was ready for the next day, then I went to bed.

What do you think you'll remember most about surviving the pandemic? Tell us what whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate memories that help them picture your life and relationships -- Have you taken up any new leisure activities in the last year, or have you changed how you eat, or cook? If you're on campus, what was it like in classrooms or dining spaces or locker rooms or offices? Have you been able to stay in touch with family or friends (including classmates and other Hanoverians)? How? What have you missed the most in the past year?

I'll definitely remember the time I spent at home. At the beginning of the stay at home order, I experimented with cooking and baking, things I enjoy doing but never had time for. I found a lot of recipes I've continued to use throughout the year, including an easy recipe for bread that I make all the time. My group of friends that regularly got together for drinks continued to do the same over Zoom, so it was nice being able to still visit with them. It definitely wasn't as fun, as it still felt like I was drinking alone. My family used the app Houseparty, which has games everyone can play so we used that quite a bit as well. I also moved in June 2020, moving from a house I shared with a roommate to an apartment alone. It was nice having a roommate to talk to and spend time with, but I also enjoy living alone. A couple of my friends also lived alone or had very small social bubbles, so I did spend time with them in the late spring and summer once the stay at home order was lifted. I also got a cat in July. He was good company to have, especially since I wasn't taking trips to Columbus, Ohio to visit my family as often. Unfortunately, he had underlying health issues that the vet didn't catch and he passed away in March 2021. He was much older than the shelter had said, so I think that was also a contributing factor. I missed his company, so I adopted Remy at the beginning of April 2021. I ended up staying in Indy for Thanksgiving because numbers were on the rise and I didn't want to travel to potentially give my family Covid or get it myself. My parents and sister facetimes me while we ate so we still felt like we were together. I think we enjoyed doing that because we don't normally like our larger family Thanksgiving food, so this gave us an opportunity to try new recipes. In November, I started getting sick of cooking and finding recipes, so I started doing HelloFresh, a meal delivery service. I love it--I'm trying new things and learning new ways to cook. Now that most of my friends are fully vaccinated or have had at least one shot, we're getting together more often and it's nice to finally be able to visit rather than just texting or calling. I've missed going to restaurants a lot--I do plenty of carryout to continue supporting local restaurants, but I missed the atmosphere and meeting friends for dinner.

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