

## Summer Memories

“Okay, Lana and Alex, you two get the peanut butter and jelly. Me and Karina will go get cheese and salami from the deli. Meet at the dairy section in... ten minutes! Let’s go!”

I never knew that shopping could be so fun, but so stressful, too. This summer, my family, along with a bunch of my close friends, traveled down to Arkansas and spent a whole week in the tourist-town of Hot Springs. It was the experience of a lifetime.

I had volunteered to do all of the cooking, so my parents could actually relax while on vacation.

Through cooking, I learned to appreciate my mom more; preparing meals is a lot harder than I thought. Before we left, I planned out all of the meals, that was the fun and easy part. When we got there though, I realized that I was in over my head. We had a group of eleven people. Eleven. Hungry. People.

It was time to go shopping. I enlisted the help of three of my friends: Karina, Lana, and Alex. Together we maneuvered the aisles, slowly crossing out the items on my list, one by one. We watched our cart as it gradually filled to the brim. It became so heavy that we needed two people to push it, and we weren’t even done! By that time, we had shopped for three hours. We were tired, and ironically, we were hungry, so we decided to call it quits. However, while we



were shopping, a huge storm rolled in. Buckets of rain were falling from the sky, and the lightning and thunder was loud and bright. Suddenly, while we were in the midst of paying for our groceries, the huge fluorescent lights started going out. Row by row they darkened until the whole store was black. For a few minutes, we just stood there, wondering what to do, until finally, the back-up generators kicked in and light returned to the store. The whole thing took us off guard and we were still kind of disoriented as we wheeled our cart out into the rain, quickly loading everything into the car and driving away. We were tired, soaked, and finally going home.



Well, to our temporary homes at least. On vacation, we stayed in two condos at a resort on the riverfront. My parents and all of the boys stayed in one condo, which left the other one to me and my five best friends! I know what you're thinking, five teenage girls in a condo by themselves, I don't think I like the sound of that, but don't worry, we were perfectly behaved and mature enough to handle it. However, that's not to say we didn't have a little bit of fun: late-night cake eating contests, dance parties, movies,

hanging out in the Jacuzzi, nothing too wild though. We were just creating some fun, summer memories.

This vacation was one of the best and most memorable vacations that I have had in my life. Of course, we went shopping downtown and discovered some unique boutiques, tried on some crazy wigs, sunglasses, and outfits, and made some purchases so we would never forget the trip. There was even a shop with a real poodle walking around! (It belonged to the owner of the store.) From tanning at the pool, to driving up and down the hilly roads, (I had recently become a legal driver), I loved it all and I don't ever want to forget a single moment.



Summer is my favorite part of the year. In the summer, I thrive. It's as if I absorb the sun's rays and they radiate from me; making me happier than ever and excited for each new memory and experience, ones that I will never forget.