

Amanda Valadez

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Period 2

College Essay-UC Prompt

Many of my fellow classmates have lived in the same house their entire lives. I, however, have lived in a total of seven houses in my life. Fortunately, this constant change of location has not kept me from recognizing a single house as my childhood home. The particular house that has made such an impact on me is located in Yuma, Arizona and owned by my grandparents. Although every room in the house has been remodeled to some extent, some things never seem to change. The living room, once with Pepto-Bismol pink walls and dark green carpet-a combination that my grandma, for some reason, loved-has recently been replaced with tan walls and tile floors. However, no one in my family can convince my grandma to ditch the floral-patterned curtains and vases that are strewn about the house. The backyard remains just as vast as it was when I was a child. The patio seems to stretch for miles, beginning at the back door and stretching past the four garages that, combined, are even larger than the house.

My grandpa purchased the house in 2002, and ever since then a majority of my family has lived there full time at one point or another. Although the house legally belongs to my grandparents, they both encourage each one of their kids and grandkids to live in it and love it as if it was their own. The first time I laid eyes on the house, I was only four-years-old. Despite my young age, I immediately considered the house to be a sanctuary. That proved true six years later when my parents got divorced and I, along with my mom and brother, took refuge there for a year while my mom got back on her feet. I consider that first year in Arizona to be the worst of

my life; however, in a time when everything around me was changing so rapidly, the house offered an aspect of familiarity. Being given the opportunity to live in such a magnificent house and be a part of such a magnificently dysfunctional family allowed me to discover my interest in psychology and eventually becoming a family counselor; it is a big dream of mine to help families overcome their problems and form strong bonds with one another.

At heart, I am a very insecure person. I am not sure of myself, my future, or my relationships. However, the house has continued to provide me with a sense of security well into my teenage years. It has remained to be the only consistent thing in my life and, thus, simply stepping onto the premises reminds me that even if everything else changes, the house will stay the same. No matter which family members become estranged or which friends decide I am no longer worth their time, it will always be there to offer me solace and remind me of simpler times.