

Topic: Growing up out in the country.

Abstract: Growing up in the country has made me who I am today in a sense. Having two brothers, I didn't have that one sibling that I became close to. Although I spent a lot of time with other family members, my cousins, I never saw any of them as models. It never appealed to me that maybe I should try and be like them, dress like them, listen to the same music they did, I just wanted to be myself. Growing up out in the country, I have spent a lot of time by myself not having neighbors to socialize with, not being exposed to some things has made me the person I am today.

Key words: being myself, unique, individuality, background, family.

I don't want to be like them

Growing up I had no neighbors being that I have live out in the country for most of my life. As a child I always wondered what it was like to have neighbors, to socialize with other kids who weren't related to me. Being the only girl in my family made it a little hard to bond with my two brothers. We didn't have the same interests, it's not like they wanted to play dress up or play with my barbies. Instead, they were pretty good at destroying my belongings and pissing me off. They had each other, but who did I have? Even though at the time I spent a lot of time with my cousins, having no neighbors and not having that contact with other children my age every day has to do with who I am today. I have become a super awesome individual only from my point of view of course. And that was just me trying to be funny.

I was born in Watsonville a small town that is about 23 miles away from Gilroy.

Watsonville has a very high Hispanic population, a lot of people joke around by calling it little mexico. I lived there through the age of five in house in the middle of nowhere from what I remember. I had no neighbors. Then when I started kindergarten we moved to Gilroy to an apartment soon after we moved to a house once again not having any neighbors. When I was in sixth grade I move to San Antonio Texas for about a year with my mom and two brothers. It was nice having neighbors for once but we were apart from my dad. We then moved back to our house in Gilroy a year later and I began attending seventh grade.

We would often go to Watsonville to visit my grandparents about three times a week. It was complete chaos there were children everywhere. I still don't understand why they just didn't give us all nyquil so we could go to sleep because we were very annoying. We very well kept ourselves entertained or our oldest cousins made sure we entertained them. One of my cousins would teach us a couple dance moves and then have us perform in front of our family members. Selena, Britney Spears, and Christina Aguilera were one of the artists we admired at the time so of course we had to dance to their songs. We also wore very slutty outfits while performing in front of our family. I'm totally kidding that didn't happen that would have been horrible. That was one of the few ways we entertained ourselves.

I am glad I never tried being like my cousins or saw any of them as role models, which surprised me since most children are very easily influenced. Being that I am the oldest out of my siblings and because I spent a lot of my childhood around my cousins. I never felt the need to be just like them. I was the complete opposite. That's right, I didn't want to wear the high heels in high school, I didn't want to have all these boyfriends, oh yeah, and I didn't want to be a parent by the of 18, 19, 20, or older. Not all of my cousins became parents by those ages, but a good handful of them did. Although my cousins and I came from very similar backgrounds we were very different. They would even make fun of me calling me the "weird" one the one who isn't normal. None of that bothered me because I was happy with who I was. I just wanted to be myself.

From my point of view the music you listened to, your religious beliefs, and simply your outlook in like didn't make you more Mexican than others.

Overall, growing up how I did out in the country not having any neighbors has its advantages and disadvantages. I feel like it has to do a lot with the person that I am now. There were a lot of things that I was not exposed to, I lived in my own little world in a sense. I became who I wanted to be not who everybody else was. I don't have to be religious because I was raised to believe, I don't have to listen to the same music my parents do, I need to be myself. I am glad that I am not afraid to be different, we are all different. Not having contact with other children outside of school I feel that in way its helped with me not wanting to be like other people. Doing the same things they did never appealed to me because I wasn't exposed to many things. At an early age I was able to decide that I didn't have to be doing all the things other people my age weredoing.

I didn't care that the rest of the kids thought it was "cool" I formed my own opinion. I have to say I never really felt pressured to do anything. Although I am content with the person I am today a part of me has always wondered if I would've been the same person I am today if I had experienced growing up differently.