

Abstract: My grandmother is a very traditional woman that believes in the old-fashion qualities. She was born in Mexico but moved to the U.S when she was a child. Growing up she learned how to speak English even through her struggles, she did not give up. She lived on a ranch on the outside of town. She tells stories of how she enjoyed her childhood. My grandmother taught me many traditional concepts and also I also want to learn more Spanish so I can have conversations with her in Spanish.

Ethnic Designation: Mexican

Cultural Category: Tradition

My Grandmother

Ever since I was a little kid I always respected and looked up to my grandmother. She is the inspiration in my life. My grandma is a strong, loving and independent woman. She is a true *Mexicana*. She was born in Mexico and lived there for half of her childhood. My grandmother is the youngest from eight kids. She came to the U.S when she was about ten years old. My great grandparents moved to the U.S because they wanted their children to have a better future. My grandmother has been through so much in her life and I think that's what made her into the amazing person she is today. Most of what I know about Mexican culture I learned from her.

Moving to the U.S was a change for my great grandparents and their kids. But luckily they were able to settle down fairly quickly. They moved into a big house on a ranch which was owned by my great uncle. That's where my grandma, her five brothers and her three sisters grew up at. My grandma to this day remembers the ranch like if she was just there yesterday. The ranch had a big open field where you could see all the

animals that they had, such as; chickens, horses, goats and a couple dogs. They lived off the land said my grandma. Everything my great grandmother cooked was usually from scratch since the nearest store was a good twenty miles away. Their ranch was out in the country with only a couple other houses. My grandma said that it reminded her of their home in Mexico because of all the space they had.

While my grandma was growing up she had some difficulties, specifically in school. Since she was born in Mexico and lived there for quite some time, she didn't know that much English. The only English that she had learned was from her uncle because he was teaching her some of the basics before she started school. Since her parents only knew how to speak Spanish they weren't much help. There was a point when she didn't want to go to school because she thought since she wasn't good at English that she wasn't going to succeed. But in the end she didn't give up and tried her hardest to learn as much English as possible. As school went by she did learn more and more which helped her a lot with her daily life.

At the ranch it was a typical Mexican household. My great grandmother always had a hot meal on the table. This was mostly rice, beans, mole, and tortillas. There would always be family over at their house and every night everyone would gather around the big wooden table, say grace and then enjoy their meal. My great grandmother was a traditional woman which is where my grandma gets it from. Every chance my grandma gets she always tries to bring back those traditions to remind us where we came from. My grandma always makes us feel so welcome when we are at her house. She always makes sure that you never leave her house hungry. She is the best person you can be around. Since I don't know that much Spanish she tries to teach me by speaking in

what she calls speaking Spanglish, which is mixing Spanish and English. Hopefully soon I can have a whole conversation in Spanish with her which is my goal.

My grandmother tells me so many stories about her childhood and what a good time she had growing up. Even through the hard times that they had she always had her head held high. She never let anyone put her down or tell her that she couldn't do anything. She is proud of being Mexican and that's not going to change. My grandmother is a traditional woman who is very old fashion. Ever since she was a child she was never afraid of being who she is which is a true *Mexicana*. She is my role model and I have never been ashamed of my culture and never will. I am getting better at Spanish and now I can understand it more Even though I don't speak Spanish, as I know where I come from and my culture that's all I need.