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Ms. Feher

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### Going to NOLA

The trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, or sometimes called NOLA, began early on a summer morning with packing our belongings for the long drive down there, it had taken us around an hour to get ready, but we eventually got done and left the house. The drive was a long and grueling one with seeing a lot of the same scenery most of the time, we passed through some mountains at some points which was nice until my ears popped but I wasn't too surprised by that. Other than that, there'd be just the pavement of the road and grass most of the time.

A thing that helped the drive pass by would be my family, in my mom's car there was my mom, my stepdad, my brother, and myself. In another car there were my grandparents and in a third there was my stepbrother and his wife. It was always nice when we got out of the car to eat or have a bathroom stop because I could stretch my legs and socialize with my family.

Eventually we got to New Orleans and it was an interesting sight, some parts looked antique and vintage while some parts seemed more modern, but they were still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. A short while later we found our hotel and decided to unpack and rest for a little bit before exploring the surrounding area of the French Quarter, one of the districts within New Orleans.

We went over to the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, which the famous site of the Battle of New Orleans. The area is located along the Mississippi River, with canons, old mansions, and a monument. Later, my family and I were able to do a self-guided tour where we had gone around the area and learned a lot about the area. The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve takes care of the national parks and has a visitor's center inside the French Quarter with a nature walk, which sounded like fun, so we decided to go on it. The building looked normal for the area with being made of brick and having this rustic look to it, but inside is filled with history of NOLA and nature. My mom checked us in, and we waited, and the tour got started around the building, and then around the French Quarter to historical sites and the river front. It was a nice tour that lasted for a good while, but it was an extremely hot day and we were practically melting in the heat, don't get me wrong I did enjoy the tour but I was happy when it was over so I could cool off and have a cold drink of water.

Café Du Monde, which is inside of the French Quarter down and along the Mississippi River, this nice café that has a nice mix of white and green that help give it this relaxing feel when you're there. If you get there early enough you can practically watch the French Quarter come to life with people getting to their stores and sweeping and just getting ready for the day all while enjoying fresh beignets and coffee, which they are famous for.

The St. Louis Cathedral is the first and oldest catholic church in New Orleans, having been there since 1718. It was even visited and worshipped by Pope John Paul II on September 12, 1987 and 30 years later, a marble statue of him was made. The statue was blessed by Pope Francis and was also a gift to the residents of New Orleans. Also, standing by the square is the Jackson Square which is a large area in memorial to Andrew Jackson.

At one point of the visit, we had gone down Bourbon street and it was probably not the most appropriate of places for someone my age because of the number of bars and people just getting wasted all along the street, not to mention the smell of marijuana which only added to it being an appropriate place to visit. All in all, it was a nice place to visit and it was an interesting experience.

After a while we found out that there was a restaurant that we had liked which was The Gumbo Shop, it was a brick building and it looked nice on the inside and the food was amazing and it also showed some of the culture around New Orleans.

When the time came to leave, we checked out of our hotel at around 11 in the morning and had started the long drive again, but it felt like it went by faster but that's probably because I had slept most of it away. After getting back home, we were exhausted, and my cat was happy to see me again which was nice to see, and later I thought how it'd be nice to visit NOLA again.