

## Hard Work

By. William M.

My mom and dad are on a business trip to London, so I am on a flight to Memphis from Austin, Texas to a small town in Tennessee called AlberTown. My aunt and uncle live there so I will be spending my time with their family. Leaving Austin isn't all bad, I get to see my cousin Lucy and the twins Fred and George. I haven't seen them in 2 years so I am looking forward to catching up. I come from a wealthy family, so I am used to getting things I want and as an only child, my way. On the short flight from Texas, I have been writing in my journal logging all the things I hope to be able to do in AlberTown with my cousins. As we land, I tuck my journal in my bag, not sure when I will be able to write in it again. I already miss my parents, but try not to think about that and instead focus on the 5 weeks ahead with family. As I leave the airport, I see Aunt Susan and Uncle Zack waiting for me by their minivan with everyone in tow. "Lucy!" I yell so excited to see her again. Lucy hugs me and we hop in the van ready to catch up like old friends. Aunt Susan tells me how she has my bed ready for me. It is so good to see all of them. On our drive to their house Lucy and I talk about school and friends. The drive to their house isn't long, but Lucy and her family live in the country. When I took my first step into the house My head exploded. They don't have-- internet, Video Games or Air Conditioning! Lucy and I race upstairs to her room that we will be sharing for the next 5 weeks. The room is cozy with two twin beds, an old TV and a shelf full of books. There are stuffed animals on the floor and a big rug. As I take in the room Uncle Zack brings in my luggage. "How does everything look Angie?" he asks. "Perfect!" I say, but roll my eyes after Uncle Zack leaves the room. I just can't get over how different my room back in Austin is with all its fancy furniture, my king bed, flat screen TV and plush carpet compared to where Lucy lives.

That evening we ate dinner together as a family, it was very enjoyable, but I excused myself early and headed to bed. A day of travel takes a lot out of you. Early the next morning I wake to clanging spoons and milk splashing. Aunt Susan calls up the stairs for me to come down to breakfast. "It's so early," I complain. "It is," says Aunt Susan, "but out in the country, you have a lot of work to do so getting up early is important." "After you have eaten breakfast Angie, you can help Lucy and your Uncle Zack move firewood," says my aunt. "UM OK," I reply. I quick eat the gross oatmeal and throw up 20 times then run outside. The heat is already hot for the early morning so I know the day is going to be a scorcher. My Uncle tells me to move firewood from where he is chopping over to a stack by the barn. It was tough work and took me two hours--I thought I was going to faint. "I am not used to all this hard work Lucy, back in Austin my parents pay people to do the hard stuff," I confide in her. "Hard work is very hard," says Angie. This is a regular chore for us around here." "What!" "OK, I'll try to work as hard as I can," I promise. The whole week Angie worked hard and would fall asleep as soon as her head hit the pillow. Angie helped around the house too cleaning every square inch of it. Doing this work was rewarding for Angie, she never thought she would enjoy working this hard but she began to like the routine of it. She also realized that she likes board games over video games, and playing outside too pretending to be a princess. The five weeks that she stayed went by so fast. She was going to miss the country.