

Imagination is the Best Play

Estefania Aragon

BEFORE YOU READ: Were children ever cruel to you when you were growing up? What did you do about it?

I treasure the memories of my childhood. Even though I had all kinds of toys at home, the best games were the ones I played without toys.

When I was little, I didn't have girlfriends at first. Girls were very cruel to me because my mom

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was a single mother, and that was unusual at that time. But I didn't cry or be sad about their treatment of me. I learned to be tough and to be creative about finding friends. I just wanted

to play. So, I drew the boys to me with imaginative games: role playing games about mystical worlds with dragons, warriors, goblins, and ghosts. I created worlds with all the things they would like, so they would play with me.

My grandmother encouraged me to cultivate my imagination with her wonderful life stories. Also, she taught me to read, and books helped me expand my horizons even more.

I grew up with an amazing imagination, which has helped me throughout life. As a child, imagination helped me survive the cruelty of other children, learn how to make friends, and develop a love of books. As an adult, I use my imagination when I confront difficulties but also to enjoy life. It makes me resourceful and creative. I love to think of the many possibilities for how things could be.

For me, imagination was, is, and always will be the best toy you can give a child.



Reading and Imagination

How was imagination important for Estefania during her childhood? How does it serve her now, as an adult?

According to the author, what is important about reading and hearing stories?

Do you remember stories that your grandparents told you? If so, share them.

Share some strategies you use in your family to encourage your children to read.

Estefania Aragon is a student at the Portsmouth Adult Education Program in Portsmouth, NH. She was born in Spain, and she and her husband and their two children have lived in New Hampshire for two years. She has a curious mind, a kind heart, worker's hands, and traveler's feet. She is always looking on the bright side of things.

