

My Great Loss

Lizbeth Araceli Reza

BEFORE YOU READ: Discuss a time you have experienced loss. What did you learn from it?

I Was 15

In my life I have had many obstacles. The hardest was when my mom passed away. This situation was the most difficult that I have ever experienced.

I was 15 years old when she died, but she had been fighting the cancer for three or four years before that. She was suffering a lot with the treatments. It was hard not only for her but for me and my whole family.

My Whole Family Suffered

The suffering was different for each of us. My dad had to take care of my mom. My sister was working, and she had to quit her job to take care of my mom too. My brother and I had to go to school, but my brother also worked. I was going to middle school, and I also helped my dad take care of my mom and take care of the house. This was a lot of work for all my

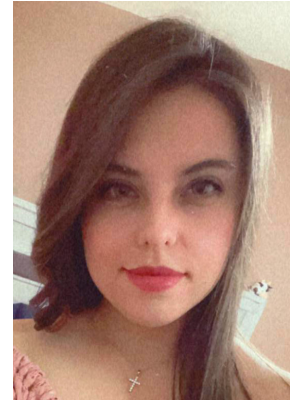
family and me. I was very young, and I was not ready to say goodbye to my mommy.

When my mom died, I did not want to believe she was gone. I needed her. I still need her. I feel I will always need her.

It Hurts, But We All Learned

Losing her was hard, but I have learned a lot. I learned about cooking, cleaning, and washing clothes. I learned how to take care of her. I learned how our family could work together to make it through a hard time. Although it hurts, I'm happy for her because now she is not in pain, and I know she is with God.

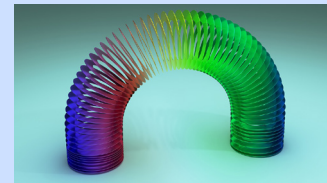
Finally, I'm happy for the strong woman that I am now. Some days I feel sad, but I always look at her photo and I say, "Help me, Gordita, please! You know how much I need you! I understand that you are no longer suffering. But your homework is to take care of me."



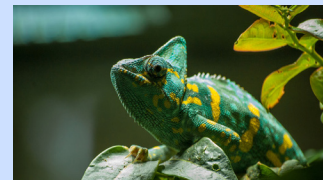
AFTER YOU READ: Read the definitions of flexibility and adaptability below. How does Lizbeth show these traits? Be specific.

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Flexibility & Adaptability



To flex is a verb that means to bend. The adjective is flexible. The noun is flexibility.



To adapt is a verb that means to adjust to new conditions. The adjective is adaptable. The noun is adaptability.