

Abby Wegner
Dr. Browne
EDUC 320
1 October 2015
Portfolio 2.2

The Fourth of July

Since I was little, my family has always celebrated the Fourth of July with the Bender family. The Bender parents and my parents are friends from college and our families have remained close since then. Normally we go to the north shore in Grand Marais, Minnesota. This year, our two families were unable to make it to Grand Marais, so instead we went to Kansas where the Bender family lives. We typically spend two days prior to the Fourth of July together as well because Lydia Bender's birthday is on the second and mine is on the third of July.

Upon arriving, the first few days consisted of grill outs, birthday cake and reminiscing about when we were younger. Then all of the siblings went to a Twins versus Royals baseball game to cheer on our fellow Minnesotans. When we got back we gathered around the piano while our families sang hymns together because it is something we have always enjoyed to do. We then went to bed anticipating the festivities that would come with the Fourth of July.

To fulfill our traditions, there were many preparations that needed to be completed before we were able to enjoy the special day. Meredith Bender and I went to the cigar shop to make sure everyone had a decent cigar to smoke after dinner. Then the two dads and my brother left to buy fireworks, because the fourth of July would not be complete without them. The moms spent the day preparing dinner and getting whiskey for everyone to have with our cigars. When we had eaten our magnificent dinner, we got out the sweet smelling cigars and went to blow up fireworks. First, we lit the sparklers, and with cigars in our mouths we sang patriotic songs. While we were singing the neighbors joined us in song as well.

As it got dark outside, Sally Bender prepared the fireworks by getting her cigar lit and placing the fireworks a safe distance away from us. The first firework gave us a scare because after Sally lit the firework with her cigar, it went straight to the power lines in their back yard. She then had to get out the hose and make sure that no fire would start. The next fireworks were not very exciting because they did not make much noise or go very high. However, the last fireworks were gigantic, like the ones you see in the Fourth of July shows. We were allowed to do this because these fireworks were legal for recreational use in Kansas. There were so big and loud that they shook the deck we were standing on.

The next day, we all had to part ways because work and school were calling our names. We all said our tearful goodbyes knowing that we will all hopefully be reunited to celebrate the next birthdays and Fourth of July.