



Max, 15

What have you been doing this week?

Oh well, let's see, this has been a different week than usual. Last Friday my school orchestra went to Atlanta, Georgia, where we went to perform in a competition and we went everywhere in Atlanta after that. We went to the Hard Rock Cafe* and even got to listen to the Atlanta Symphony. It was like a two-and-a-half-hour performance, but they were unbelievable! It was great!

The next day we attended the actual competition and were ranked as being superior, which is the best ranking of course. And after that we went to Six Flags, the amusement park, for about nine hours and rode just about every ride there.

And then the next day we went to the Georgia Aquarium and got to see all sorts of sea life that was really cool from all over the world. And after that we went to the World of Coca-Cola* and got to taste sodas* from every continent. It was very neat.*

Following that day we got back on the bus and rode five hours all the way home watching Jack Black movies.

Who is Jack Black?

Oh, he's a real goofy* actor. The bus ride was kind of long because of Atlanta's traffic, so it felt good to be back in my little old hometown.

What instrument do you play?

Well, my main instrument is the piano, but I also play the bass guitar and the upright bass, which is what I play in the school orchestra.

What do you do on an ordinary day?

On an ordinary school day, I try to wake up at 6:00 every morning and get some extra piano practice before going to what we call zero period* at school. Most students start at first period, but zero period is like an extra class you can take before that. I take jazz ensemble. I get home after school at around 4:30, and then I do homework, eat dinner, practice instruments, or maybe go to church for a music rehearsal, and I usually try to go to bed by 11:00.

Is there anything you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Um. Let's see. I'd probably like to give the advice to make sure to cherish* your youthful years. I do.

A Few Words

Hard Rock Cafe: This company has restaurants in many big cities in many countries. They are popular with young people.

World of Coca-Cola: Coca-Cola began in Atlanta. The World of Coca-Cola is a museum about Coca-Cola.

Soda: In different parts of the U.S., these beverages are called soda, pop, soda pop, or soft drinks.

Neat: A slang word that means very good, enjoyable.

Goofy: This is an informal word. It means silly or funny.

Zero period: The hours in U.S. schools are usually called periods. The first hour of school is first period, the second hour of school is second period, and so forth. Some schools have a zero period for students who want to come to school very early and do extra work.

Cherish: If you cherish something, you love it and want to take good care of it.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you do on an ordinary school day? What do you usually do on a day when there is no school?
2. What kind of movies or television shows do you like to watch? What kind do you not like? Why? Do you have a favorite actor? Who is it? Why is this person your favorite?