



Gabriela, 19

What have you been doing this week?

Well, I go to San Jose State.* Mondays and Wednesdays I get up and work out, and I start my classes. In between classes I have an hour-and-a-half break, so I usually go to the library and read, browse* the internet, do homework, write essays, anything I have to do. Tuesdays and Thursdays I usually get up and go to school for an 8:30 class, and then since the class is anatomy, I go to the library and study, study, study. Then I have a lecture. Then I go to lunch, something fast because I have another class afterwards.

Today is Friday. What are you doing?

Fridays I have off, so I'm out here enjoying the weather. It's a day to do other things than reading and homework. I'm here with my mom and my two little nieces and my little cousin. We took them to story time at the library* and then we came here.

How old are they?

They're four, two, and nine months.

What do you do on the weekends?

Saturday morning I go out for a run, see friends, or go to a family get-together.* Sunday I study.

What are you studying?

Nursing.

Why did you decide to become a nurse?

When I was fifteen, an aunt of mine had quadruplets,* and seeing her through the pregnancy and going to the hospital when she was there and helping her with four kids, I decided I wanted to become a nurse. Before that I wanted to be a teacher. It changed my perspective.

How many people are in your family?

My mother's family had eight sisters and two brothers, but I'm her only child. There are a lot of cousins and a whole lot of little girls. We usually try to spend time together and do a lot of things together—family bonding time,* you could say. When I'm a nurse, I want to specialize with kids.

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

Well, make sure to read and get involved in things, so you can pursue a career in something that you are really going to like.

A Few Words

San Jose State: In the United States, each state government runs universities. A state university in the city of San Jose is called San Jose State University.

Browse: When animals (like goats) eat a little bit of grass here and a little bit there, they browse. The word *browse* is now used for people looking for information on the internet.

Story time at the library: Most American towns have a public library that is not part of a school. The librarians there often have an hour when they read stories aloud to small children.

Get-together: This is an informal word for any time people spend time together.

Quadruplets: Four babies born at the same time. Three babies are triplets. Two babies are twins.

Family bonding time: *Bond* means “stick together” or “glue together.” When people spend time together so that they will feel very close to each other emotionally, some people call it bonding time.

Discussion Questions

1. Gabriela changed her mind about something important in her life (becoming a nurse instead of a teacher). When have you changed your mind about something? Does it seem like a good decision now?
2. Gabriela has no brothers or sisters, so she is an “only child.” Her grandmother had ten children (eight girls and two boys). What do you think is the best size for a family? How many sons and how many daughters would you like to have? Why do you think this is a good size for a family?