

1

On Sunday I went to the park. I took my son. He had so much fun. The park was big. There were lots of things to do. He went on the swings first. He flew high in the air. I told him not to go so high. He told me birds fly higher than him.

2

This weekend we went to the zoo. It was awesome. Our son went with us. His sister came, too.

The zoo was in the city. It took a long time to drive there. When we got there my kids were excited. They wanted to see the seals first. They loved the seals. They put on a show. The seals could balance balls on their noses.

3

Family trips can be fun, but some are not. Last month our family went to the beach, but it was not a fun trip. The trip took ten hours in the car. When we arrived, the house looked like it hadn't been lived in for several years. The weather was the worst part of the trip. Every day during the entire week was overcast. It rained day and night, and so we had to stay inside.

We had fun a few times. My son and I went for a walk on the beach, and he found a hermit crab on the jetty. Next year when we head to the beach, we will be hoping for better weather.

4

Family outings are very important to my family. We go lots of places together.

Last weekend we went to a museum in the city. It was an art museum, but it had a lot of other things in it, too.

The museum itself was a beautiful building. The front door was huge. It was so big an elephant could have fit through it.

We saw a medieval exhibit at the museum. Our kids studied medieval times in school, so they knew a lot about it. The first room was filled with suits of armor. There were all types, not only the kinds I had seen before. My wife said it was like a department store for knights.

5

Last week, my family went to the county fair. My brother is a volunteer fireman, so he was working at the fair. My children and I went to meet him. I am very glad we did; it was a great night.

When we arrived, the fair was very crowded, and finding my brother was like finding a needle in a haystack. We finally found him because we heard the fire truck siren blaring and knew it was him. Showing off the fire truck is his favorite pastime; that truck is his pride and joy.

There was a feeling of excitement at the fair. Everyone was happy and having fun, just like how the children feel on their birthdays.

6

Over Labor Day, our family went to the largest amusement park in our state. My children's mission was to go on every roller coaster at least once, and they accomplished it.

The recently constructed Shredder was the first they tried. It is the tallest, largest, most daunting coaster I have ever seen. Despite my better judgment, I agreed to accompany them on the ride.

My heart was beating like drums at a rock concert as the coaster slowly climbed. Suddenly, the climb was over, and we began to plunge. It felt as if we were free-falling to the ground. Up and down we went, round and round, upside down and back again. It seemed like the ride would never stop, and then all of a sudden it was over.

I was ready to take a break after this adventure, but once my children regained their composure, they were ready for more.

7

Our family has always loved the water. My father, in particular, should probably have been born a fish. Recently, he took me and my two children on a fishing trip to the Atlantic Ocean.

Once we arrived, after carefully comparing prices and sizes, he selected a vessel to charter, and we were off. Our captain involved the children in equipment preparation; they helped him organize rods, reels, lines, and bait. Out on the ocean the captain cut the engines, and we cast our lines into the sea and waited for our bait to tempt some aquatic creature.

My dad regaled us with stories about the big fish that always seemed to get away. His stories were no doubt exaggerated, but we all enjoyed listening to them. My children got to see a new side of their grandfather, and I enjoyed watching the three of them interact.

8

As recent immigrants to the United States, my family and I decided to take a trip to see the Statue of Liberty. This symbol of freedom and strength was something we had read about for many years, so we wanted to experience it firsthand. We were not alone in our interest to see this landmark—all types of people from all corners of the world seemed to be crushed together waiting for the ferry.

The trip to the island was both exhilarating and fascinating. The statue herself was an awesome sight to behold. Standing at her feet, I found it difficult to comprehend the masses of people who had stood there before me. Visiting this symbol of freedom was an experience I will never forget.