

Trying Something New

It was a hot and sticky July afternoon when Nana picked me up from school. She drove me to the lake house with the windows down and her favorite Elvis Presley CD blasting on the radio. When we arrived, she fixed us some iced tea and we sat on the dock with our feet in the water, kicking and splashing. She was asking me about school, and she began reminiscing about her days in school and about the pranks she used to pull on her teachers, one particularly which included hiding the frogs during dissection week. She suddenly came back from her reminiscent day dream and said, "Let's do something neither one of us has done before. I am 70 and I need to try something new." We began brainstorming idea after idea. She was gazing across the lake at the big stone house and a balcony that looks out over the water. It was then that the idea came to her. "I want to see what our wet hand prints look like on that dock," she said as she pointed all the way across the lake. At first, I laughed at the idea, but after seeing the look in her eye, I knew that we were going to do it. I hesitantly asked if we were kayaking across because in my head, I already knew the answer. "No, my dear, we are swimming. Let's go."

We put our bathing suits on and dove into the lake. The water felt so cool and refreshing unlike the still, muggy air. We began making our way to the stone house. We practiced all of our swimming strokes and I showed her how I finally mastered the butterfly stroke. We talked and laughed and swam and swam. Before we knew it, we made it to the dock. She pressed her pruned hands against the side of the dock, and I did the same. Nana's smile in that moment was so pure, I know that she felt the feeling she was searching for. I could not help but feel lucky to be swimming across the lake with my 70-year-old grandma. We turned around and my grandfather was behind us in the boat and asked if we wanted a ride back to the lake house, in which she replied, "Go on home, dear, we are trying something new." We took our time swimming back home, enjoyed the sun on our faces, and enjoyed experiencing something new together.