

My Grandmothers

By Hollis Burton,
11 years old

My grandmothers are both nice. One lives in New Orleans, and the other, who just died, lives in Jonesville, Louisiana. Every birthday she gives my twin and me money or presents. My grandmother is so nice to her grandchildren. My grandfather just passed away. My grandmother, Verite Burton, stays in New Orleans, Louisiana.

My other grandmother stays in Jonesville, Louisiana. I met her for the third time, just after I turned 11 last October. Shortly after we visited, she passed away. For most of the visit, my brother, Hollywood, and my sisters, Teoka and Keoka, played outside. But when we were inside, we watched television with my grandmother and took pictures.

During a lot of the visit, I asked her all sorts of questions, like can I use the phone from here to New Orleans without a calling card. She said I had to use a calling card. She never went outside. The only place she would go is on the porch. She'd sit on her chair and then come back inside.

I miss going to the country now that my grandmother died. When we go there, I can ride bikes real fast down the hills. And the candy costs a lot less there. A man comes in a car and sells candy and fruit.

But as much as I miss my grandmother, my cousin Mahogany misses her more than me, because she used to go to the store for my grandmother. Mahogany lived with grandma. When my grandmother asked her to do something, she'd do it. When everyone left to go back to New Orleans, Chicago, and Atlanta, Mahogany would clean up the kitchen and make up the beds—before she went out with her friends.

Mahogany just had a baby in January. My grandmother must be sad that she died before she saw the baby. I never saw her around babies, but I know she must have been good with them. Mahogany was kind of strong when the funeral happened. I know the funeral was hard for her, because she used to stay with my grandmother.

In the future I told my grandmother that I'm going to be a lawyer, because I want to help people solve problems and get me an Expedition and a big house for my family and my cousins. My mother helps people all the time. For older people in the neighborhood, she'll go to the store for them and bring out their trash. Seeing her help people makes me want to too. I know my grandmother would be happy about that, and maybe that would make my cousin Mahogany miss her less.