



Caleb, 14

This interview made me smile. Caleb and his friends enjoyed doing something that made them feel sick.

What have you been doing this week?

I want to talk about what I did two weeks ago. Is that OK?

Well, sure. What did you do two weeks ago?

Two weeks ago I went to Disney World* in Florida. It was for our eighth grade trip, about 200 kids went, and we went for four days. We went by bus, and it was a thirteen-hour trip to get there, and a thirteen-hour trip to get back.

What did you do there?

On the first day we went to Epcot Center, and they do a lot of scientific research and stuff,* so we learned about chemistry there, and we rode on the GM* test track and saw some cars like water-powered cars and solar-powered cars.

The second day we went to the Hall of Presidents at Disney World, and they had these robots, like models of the presidents, that moved and talked, and they were the same height as the real presidents and the same shoe size and everything. It was cool.* The robots talked about the history of America. It was about the difficulties we went through in the past and how the presidents dealt with it. And they talked about the Civil War,* and Abraham Lincoln* talked then, and talked about how slavery was wrong.

What else did you do?

The third day we went to the Animal Kingdom and rode on a new ride. It's called Everest, like Mt. Everest.* It's a roller coaster. It goes like forty miles an hour, and it goes backwards part of the way, and a Yeti* pops up. We rode that thing like eighteen times. We just rode it all day. One of my friends threw up* everywhere, so we took a bus back to where we were staying. I roomed with three people, and our room was connected to a room with three more boys and one of my friends' dad, and three of the seven people on the bus ride threw up. It was a crazy bus ride. That night people were sick. It was from riding Everest.

On the fourth day we went to MGM, and they closed a section of the roller coaster and made it so it was just for the eighth graders. It was awesome.* They closed down that part of the park for us and that was the most fun, and we rode it all day. Then we came home on the bus, and it was 6:00 in the morning and our parents came to get us. We slept on the bus.

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

I hope you get to go to Disney World someday.

A Few Words

Disney World: Disney World, Epcot Center, Animal Kingdom, and MGM are all parts of a very large and famous amusement park.

Stuff: This is an informal word for "things."

GM: General Motors, a major American car manufacturer.

Cool: This is a slang word for "good" or "interesting."

Civil War: There was a war between the northern and southern parts of the U.S. from 1861 to 1865. Before the Civil War, some people in the U.S. had slaves.

Abraham Lincoln: He was president during the Civil War.

Mt. Everest: This is the English name for the highest mountain in the world.

Yeti: A monster man that some people say lives in the mountains.

Throw up: This is an informal phrase for "vomit."

Awesome: This is a slang word for "very good" or "wonderful."

Discussion Questions

1. Caleb and his friends got sick because of the movement of the roller coaster (motion sickness). Do you or people that you know get sick from riding in a car or bus on curving roads? When and where did it happen? Do you think you would enjoy the roller coaster, like Caleb and his friends, or would you stay away from it?
2. Where would you like to go on a fun trip with your friends? What would you do there? How would you have fun?