

“What Rain Day Means to Me”

By Christina Lahew – Contestant #5

In life as we know it, everything has become quick paced. Rare is the occasional vacation to take a breather from school or work. Once a year, however, there is an event somewhere in this world, in a small town in Pennsylvania, where everyone comes to a halt and spends time at a festival. The well known scent of freshly squeezed lemons and sugar fill the air from the lemonade stand. Beside this delightful location, the sizzling from the fryers echo as crispy funnel cakes are cooked then coated in the scrumptious layer of powdered sugar. Local artisans are recognized as they advertise their items from shirts to artistic trinkets. The court house steps are converted into a stage for live bands and other entertainments such as dancers and singers, and windows are decorated all along Main Street. Though food, activities, and other diversions from this hectic thing we know as life are enjoyable, it is still not what this event means to me.

Rain Day is an occasion where friends and family can get together and spend time having fun while experiencing this county’s tradition. Though the prophecy of it raining is only recorded in the Borough of Waynesburg, all of the surrounding villages and towns are involved with this festival. It’s not just about the communities individually, but as a whole where they come together and not only have a great time, but to also pray on this one day that it’ll rain. This is a place where you can take a breather from the highway we call life. Here in Waynesburg at the Rain Day event, it is as though time has stopped. Instead of continuing with the higher speeds as one would on a highway, the country roads are chosen in order to slow down and smell the roses. Away from all of the horrific news the world has to offer, one is able to take this day and take a moment to appreciate the sweeter side of our existence.

I’m proud to come from a county that doesn’t let the craziness around them interfere with the enjoyment of the simple life. In the place I call home, I can find people that understand the meaning of family and putting your feet up to unwind from these stressful times. Even when the world around us is in chaos, I am confident that our community can still find ways to prove that not everything is terrible. Even in tough times, we can loosen up and take a break from the demands that this day and age put in our laps. This is what Rain Day means to me.