

# Summer road trip essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The late June Texas sun was hot as it came through the window of my Caliber. I had begun my road trip to the lake house in Mineola early that morning. I had dressed for comfort, wearing my blue shorts and my favorite worn out tee, I knew it was going to be a long hot drive.

As I drove down the road, I soon realized that I had never been anywhere alone before. This was a new feeling to me, one of strength and fear rolled into one. While fighting the traffic to get out of town, I was thinking back on the conversation Mother and I had had the night before. But what if you have to stop, what if you have a flat tire? " mother's voice was full of concern, " You know a stranger can grab you, they prey on women traveling alone! " " Mother, please! " I begged, " I am grown and I have kids of my own. I know the dangers that you have drilled them into my head my whole life! I have a cell phone, and I'll be okay. " " I just love you, and you know you mean the world to me.

I cannot help but worry about you being alone. "" I know you love me and I promise you I will be okay. It is only for a couple of nights.

I wondered if she would ever look at me as an adult and know that she taught me what I need to know in the world. Mother's worried words soon faded out of my mind just as the city faded away into the countryside. I now began to feel at ease and somehow stronger about being alone. I could see the heat waves rising off the pavement on the road ahead as the traffic began to thin out. Not letting the heat of a Texas summer ruin my trip, I turned up the air conditioner. I could not help but smile as I felt the frosty air as it blew my hair back. I continued to head east on the highway.

The dark green of the pine trees loomed over the road and seemed to go on forever. The smells of fresh pine filled the car and nearly overpowered my senses. Just outside the pine forest I noticed graceful as they grazed near the road. They briefly looked up and I saw the peace in their soft brown eyes. I longed for that kind of peace in my life and hoped I could find it in the solitude of the lake house. I slowly began to see old homes and buildings as I approached a small town. This was my exit. I had skipped breakfast and at that time my stomach had begun to rumble.

Not far off the highway I spotted a quaint home that had been transformed into a diner. I decided to stop. An elderly woman with bouffant silver hair, wearing a blue checked dress and apron greeted me at the door with a smile before seating me. It was as if I had stepped back into an old movie or perhaps a doorway into the past.

Upon the waitress's instance, I ordered the daily special. It was a wonderful plate of roast beef and mixed vegetables and it all melted in my mouth with each bite. I became aware that all eyes were on me and I could hear whispers as they looked my way. I do not know if it was the fact that I was a stranger in town or that I was a woman traveling alone, either way the unwanted attention made me uncomfortable.

With this I decided to skip the apple pie and get back on the road, since I was not far from my destination. The town was very small, and I soon found myself winding down farm lined country roads. The pine trees had given way to vast fields of grain and pastures filled with cattle. The country was nice, but I could not wait to be at the lake house where I could listen to the water

lashing against the shore. I eagerly looked for the brown direction signs to show me the way to the lake. I had never driven there alone before and was afraid of getting lost. I was pleased to find my first sign and make my final turn into the tiny dirt road that lead to the house. White clouds of dust kicked up behind my car as I drove down the tiny one lane road.

I could see the house in the distance with the shimmering blue water just behind. I pulled into the driveway and just stared out the car window at the view. The lush green grass flowed down to the water's edge, dotted only by a few oak trees that gave perfect shade along the way.

I felt as if I could literally melt into the scenery. I had not noticed that the neighbor's dog, Maggie, had come to the car until I heard her soft whine to get my attention. She was sitting next to the car wagging her tail as I opened the car door, excited to have my company. I unpacked the car and carried the few bags I had brought with me into the house. It was dark and cool inside despite the summer's heat. I opened the blinds and was again mesmerized by the beautiful view. I knew in that moment my coming here alone was just what I needed to heal from the stressful events I had just been through.

I did not even bother to unpack, but instead I kicked off my shoes and immediately went with Maggie for a walk by the lake. We walked down the soft dirt path that leads to my special "sitting rock", which juts out over the water. I could feel the cool dirt as it dusted over my bare feet and smelled the oak leaves as I walked under the shade of the trees. Once we arrived at the paths end, I sat on my rock and watched the water lapping against the

sandy shore and listened to it echo as it splashed under the rock. Although I could feel the summer's heat against my skin, there was a cool gentle breeze blowing off the lake that counteracted the sun's rays.

I just sat and gazed out into the water with the blue cloudless sky reflecting off of it, and I became lost in my thoughts. I had needed this time alone, time to reflect on how my life had been changed. This road trip was the beginning of my healing, the trip where I became "me" again and was able to start over. I faced my fear of being alone on this short summer trip, but I came away with more than just memories, I came away my own person again with solid plans for a new future.