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English 1301

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Sensory Impressions: County Fair

A picture perfect view where bunches of weightless cotton danced across a light blue background. The sky was radiant that day. Birds soared above into the endless existence, disappearing into the clouds. Sunburn probably became an epidemic as the blistering sun beat down continuously all day. The sharp leaves of the freshly cut green grass crunched when feet stood upon it, and the light wisps of air gave everyone just enough relief from the sun. This kicked off a wonderful day at the fair.

The smells immediately hit my nose. Smoked sausage, giant turkeys legs, pizza, and buttery popcorn all come into view. A sweet warm air fills my nostrils. Then I see them, the thin twisted pieces of dough, deep-fried into a delicious treat and sprinkled with powdered sugar. These funnel cakes tasted like heaven melting in your mouth. Escaping the cotton candy vendors became impossible. Every few steps, they had bags of cotton candy, with swirls of baby blue and pastel pinks. I watched as a group of toddlers eyes popped out of their sockets just looking at the puffs of sweet fiberglass that would soon become gritty pink crystals when their tongue touched a piece. Snow cones and soda quenched the thirsty mouths of the people as they ran around taking part in all the activities the fair had to offer.

The dunk tank took center stage. A young man with bright red swimming trunks sat inside the tank. He held onto a water gun and would occasionally spray the crowd. As I bent down to grab the ball, he got me! A few drops of water trickled down my back, feeling quite refreshing since it was so hot out. After two tries, the ball hit right on the target. Water splashed outside the tank and the young man was drenched. The crowd erupted into laughter. Clowns wandered around with goofy smiles painted on their faces. It created great entertainment for the kids. Bright colors and large polka dots covered their attire. They gave the kids face paintings, and some even made balloon animals. The screechy sound of a balloon

being twisted and rubbed against another, made me grind my teeth. It reminded me of nails on a chalkboard.

Games surrounded the fair grounds. From blow up slides to cake walks, people stood in line all day to get to play. The prize booth continued to be a popular part of the fair. When people finished their games, the tickets they won got turned in for a prize. There was candy, silly putty, fluffy stuffed animals, and little key chains for those without many tickets. I used mine for a huge stuffed gorilla with green coveralls on. He felt so soft and cuddly when I grabbed him.

My tired feet couldn't take anymore. A bench nearby provided the comfort I longed for. My eyes watched as a group of young girls giggled at some boys racing for their attention. Running back and forth holding tightly onto confetti eggs, waiting for the perfect moment to crack one on their fellow friend's head. Tiny colored papers blew in the wind after the egg had cracked. Pieces laid stuck in the boys hair and he quickly brushed them out running to get the other boy back. This could go on for hours.

By the end of the day, the laughter subsided and the smells of food cooking had diminished into the air. Parents held onto their tired children who had fallen fast asleep after a long day of running around. I saw the clowns pack up their supplies and the water tank was flooding the grass around it. The cotton candy bags had all been sold, the snow cones were melted and the popcorn had become stale. The clean up crew already started sweeping the confetti eggs and trash left behind. The sun started to lower and the area that once was a fair was now just an empty lot. It started with the scorching sun causing everyone's pores to drip sweat. It ended with the cool air of the night and the twinkling stars above my head.