

## Personal Narrative

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **"Fun" Phobia**

by Tom Curran

For a full week every summer, I would awaken each night from a deep sleep, sweaty and scared. Dark circles would ring my eyes from lack of sleep. It was only during the summer that I was I plagued by dark nightmares. All because of an intense fear of... rollercoasters.

This phobia didn't interfere with my everyday tasks; it's not like there is a roller coaster on every corner. But every summer, when my family and I took our annual trip to Six Flags, it was the same song and dance. I would find myself sitting on a hot bench with my mother, while my older brothers gleefully ran from one coaster to the next.

A few times I bravely got on the coaster line, but then my mind would freeze at the thought of being stuck hundreds of feet in the air with nowhere to go...but down. And I would have to get off the line to go sit on my bench of shame.

I became the butt of my brothers' jokes. They'd say things like, "Why don't you just head over to KFC, because all you are is a big chicken!"

"Leave your little brother alone," my mother would say. She may have thought she was coming to my rescue, but it just added to my embarrassment.

Finally, one summer I just became sick and tired of the fear that was ruining my trip to the park. I decided that the best way to get over this fear was by going on the fastest and biggest roller coaster at the park. I thought that if I preoccupied myself by wearing my iPod while I waited on line, I would be too distracted to be scared. As I waited on line, Aerosmith blasting through the ear buds, I tried really hard to focus on the music. It was time to face my fears and show my brothers

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(and myself) that I could do it.

Before I knew it, I was sitting next to my brother. As the roller coaster began to go up, I was absolutely terrified. I had made a huge mistake! But as the roller coaster shot down the track... I realized it was awesome! Flying at speeds like that was nothing I had ever experienced. After it was over I didn't couldn't even remember what I was worried about to begin with! I already couldn't wait to go on again.

Not only did going on the roller coaster help me face my fears and gain the respect of my brothers, but it also gave me a new hobby that I loved. Oh, and I'm certainly sleeping better too.

