

## A Day in the Life

***Alandra is 15 years old and lives with her parents, two brothers (ages 8 and 14), and older sister (age 21).***

Alandra wakes up at 5:15 a.m. each day so she can curl her hair, get breakfast ready for her siblings (if her older sister has work), and be at the bus stop at 6:05 a.m.

After school, Alandra and her 14-year-old brother usually ride the bus from the high school to their 8-year-old brother's elementary school so that they can walk him home. The elementary school does not have bus service and their younger brother doesn't like to stay at the afterschool program. They only live two blocks from school and the walk is short and safe.

When Alandra and her brothers get home, they wait for their older sister, Ingrid, to get off work and often convince her to take them to do something. Alandra's favorite thing is Dutch Brothers Coffee, so if she has babysitting money, she usually asks her older sister to take her there. After their excursion, they come home and clean the kitchen so their mom can get dinner ready after work.

After her mom comes home, Alandra usually starts her homework while dinner is being made. She loves her dance class at school and if she is learning a new dance routine, she will usually show her mom after dinner. Then she and Ingrid will finish their homework together and help their two younger brothers with homework, if needed.

When asked about the best part of her day she says, "I really love my dance class at school. The teacher is nice and I like to try new things. I also really like to walk my baby brother home from school."

When asked about the hardest part she says, "I hate getting up early. And I hate when I miss the bus because Ingrid is always mad at me when I do."

### **Questions to consider for Alandra:**

- What is important to Alandra?
- What do you think Alandra sees as her responsibilities?
- What do you think Alandra's parents see as her responsibilities?
- What expectations does Alandra have for herself?
- What expectations do you think Alandra's parents have for her?

***Marietta is 38 years old and lives with her husband, two sons (ages 8 and 14), and two daughters (ages 15 and 21).***

Marietta wakes up at 4:45 a.m. so she can eat, make lunch for herself and her husband, makes sure there is food her children can cook for breakfast when they wake up, and walks to meet the friends that take her to her job. This meeting spot changes depending on where her family is living and what farm she works for. Right now, they live close to where she works, and she has friends to ride to work with—which means she gets to enjoy a short walk to the meet-up spot. She says that the time right after she wakes up is her favorite because she is alone and it is quiet. She often tells her oldest daughter, Ingrid, “The sunrise was perfect this morning.”

She arrives at work just as the sun is brightly in the sky. She meets her lead at the greenhouse and gathers her tools for the day. She spends the next four hours picking strawberries (right now); other times she picks corn or peaches. As the family moves, the crop that Marietta picks changes too.

After work, she enjoys the ride home with friends and starts thinking about what to cook for her family. This is another favorite part of her day; she loves cooking and watching her family enjoy the meal. She uses her friend’s phone to text Ingrid to see if the kids have made it home from school. She always has worries about her 8-year-old son because his school does not have a bus and there were no spots in the afterschool program when they moved to the area. This means that she has to rely on Ingrid and neighbors to make sure he gets home safely. Next year, she really hopes to be in the area before the afterschool program is full.

Once she arrives home, she tiredly greets her children and hears of the school day events. They share as the sit and chat at the table: the 8-year-old shares his homework project; the 15-year-old complains about her homework. She begins making dinner with the left-over chicken from last night. Before she is finished making dinner her husband gets home. She meets him at the door, helps him get settled, and serves him dinner. Then the children serve themselves dinner.

Within moments, the teenagers have finished eating and are off to their rooms, texting friends about school and arguing about who gets to be in the bathroom first. The 8-year old son remains and asks his dad to help with his project. Marietta cleans up the plates and finally serves herself a semi-warm dinner. She sits next to her 8-year old on the couch as he describes his project, and together they make a plan for getting it done by Friday. She overhears the bathroom argument getting louder but before she can say anything Ingrid shouts, “I need to wake up for my college class and that is more important than high school. I am showering first!” and slams the door.

**Questions to consider for Marietta:**

- What is important to Marietta?
- What do you think Marietta sees as her responsibilities?
- What expectations does Marietta have for her children?