

Mom-centered

My Mom died Saturday and I would like to change our exercise for this week (shouldn't be too much of a disruption to you as you have only gathered an organism in a jar and we are using that).

Answer on your saved copy of this page and drop your exercise in the dropbox by Friday, Sept. 11 at midnight. The exercise is your version of a conversation between you and your "mom" about the creature you have in your jar.

1. Tell me who you will be using as your "mom" in this exercise.
I'll show it to my father. Historically he's always had aquariums and plants all over the house and I think he'll get a kick out of my moss in a jar!
2. Introduce the organism you have been keeping in a jar to your Mom. Your introduction should include the name you have given it (doesn't have to be taxonomically correct but you should know what that means (look in your book's Table of Contents)), where it came from and if it has been easy to keep alive.
I named it George. My dad thought that was pretty funny. I tried to identify which moss this is, but there's so many different kinds and they're so similar that I didn't have any confidence. Every time I thought I had it figured out I'd find a new moss that was more convincing. Eventually I gave up trying.
3. Predict your Mom's reaction to your "friend" (unless you can actually see her reaction, then record that). Does your Mom embrace diversity? This week is all about diversity and historically people have reacted differently to the diversity of life.
Because of my dad's history of plants and aquariums I think he'll like it but probably question it still. He'll probably laugh at me naming it and then tell me some story about a plant that he's already told me before! My father has always appreciated diversity throughout life. You should've seen some of the massive aquariums he used to keep!
4. Would you have chosen a different organism if you knew you were showing it to "Mom"? What kinds of diversity does your mom like better (plants, animals, fungi, etc.)?
No, I don't think so. I picked moss because it seemed almost ironic, and it's kind of an experiment. I don't really know exactly how to keep it alive. I'm using some liquid plant food that I've used on indoor plants before just to see if it works. Even if that wasn't true, I thought my dad would like the idea of moss in a jar from the get go.
5. Ask your mom how she feels about change. Does she like seasonal change (we are getting a big taste of this in the next couple days)? Does she like watching you change?
Ha! He complained about how cold it's been (he's always hated the cold) and how quickly everything changes. In the moment it feels like change is too slow, but then one day you look back and "the time just flew by". Then he joked about how old he's gotten. I never thought those kinds of jokes were very funny. It does, however, make me think about how much I've changed. I've grown as a person both physically and mentally. I've made new friends. I've learned so much. Some change is good. It also reminds of how frail and forgetful my father has become. How my grandmother isn't around anymore. How some of my friends from back in the day silently crept out of my life. Change isn't inherently good or bad, but it's something we all have to deal with. I wish school and society was better at preparing people for that, and teaching us how to deal with it.

Diversity and change are two of the central ideas of this week's material and we honor our mom's by asking their opinions on those two ideas.