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## The Mom Who Sleeps In The Car

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# The Mom Who Sleeps In the Car

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Stephanie Castro-Hernández

**M**aría Guadalupe Hernández is a single mother of twins. She was blessed with a son and daughter. She is a strong woman and works hard. She is resilient, encouraging, and a smart mother who never needed a man to help her.

María Guadalupe, is my beautiful mom. She is my everything, mi todo. I would shake heaven and earth for her. She's been through a lot and continues to refuse defeat. Never did she miss any of my piano recitals nor Steve's football games, even after having to work without rest. She never received any form of government subsidies. We never got a step dad. She stopped being a woman for us. Never did she say she was tired. Never did she depend on anyone or ask for help. She did everything on her own.

Even when she was tired, she was there. Working from five in the afternoon to two in the morning Monday through Friday was not easy. She was always on-time picking us up from school, personalizing our lunches with a note, "Te Amo," followed by a self-portrait. She really never had time to sleep. The only time she was able to sleep was Saturday morning while we were in catechism class. My mom always kept us occupied, therefore she was always occupied. She attended every school event, parent meetings, and booster clubs. You name it; my mom was there.

She was the mom who sleeps in the car. Students always asked, "Why is your mom always sleeping in the car? Why is she alone?" I simply answered, "Because she's mom and dad." Truthfully, growing up I saw my situation was better than my peers' who had both a mom and a dad in their household. I'm so thankful everyday que Dios me dió mi mami, una gran mujer y madre. The mom who sleeps in the car is my mom, and she still never rests.

## REFLECTION

I have always had a passion to write. I have the stories and the voice, but not the English skills. In this class, I was able to ignore the writing standards of a white male-dominated culture's English language rules. English is not my first language so that is why I stall when I write. Even after taking a remedial English class in college, I just chose to freewrite without having to feel bad about my English.

In class we were all able to write and share our stories. Grammar in this class did not hold me back. It was great that I wrote and was inspired by the great authors we read in class. Their Spanglish writing is what I like to write. Spanglish gives my writing a more sentimental feeling. I'm proud of my writing, and I got such great feedback. It's unbelievable how our story will be heard by a larger audience. Most importantly, we were encouraged to just write! I did not write "fancy" stories but they are my stories and my family's, unique and different from the rest.

I loved learning and writing in this class. It was a truly amazing experience.