

# One AMAZING Summer

Anne Schraft





MEET THE



Gran

**Age:** 65

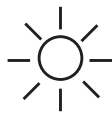
**Favorite Saying:** "No guts, no glory."

**RV's Name:** the Beast

**Future Goal:** to climb Mount Everest

**Best Quality:** happy

# CHARACTERS



Ana

**Age:** 11

**Hidden Talent:** moonwalking

**Favorite Board Game:** checkers

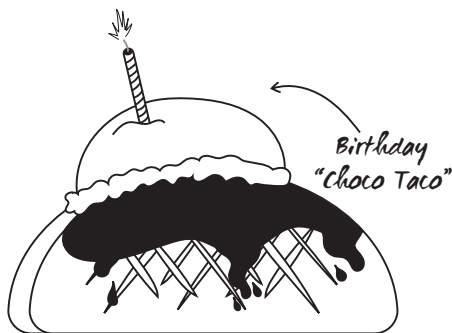
**Biggest Fear:** a bug will climb into her ear  
and lay eggs

**Best Quality:** curious

# 1

## BIRTHDAY GIRL

Ana Salazar was excited. It was her birthday. She was 11 years old. And she was ready to celebrate. Her grandmother was with her. They were at Fresh Mex Grill. It wasn't a party. But it was perfect.



Ana's real birthday already passed. It was on Sunday. The party was that



day. Nothing big. It was just Ana and her parents. And her brother, Jason. It was fun. But today was special. Her grandma was cool. The coolest person Ana knew.

“Do you have summer plans?” Gran asked.

Ana’s smile faded. “Summer camp,” she said sadly. “I hate camp, Gran. It was awful last year. This time won’t be any better.”



Ana changed the subject. She wanted this day to be happy. “Do you have plans?”

Gran nodded. “I’m taking a trip in my RV. I’ll be driving to New Orleans,” she said. “It’s for my new book. It’s about traveling



through the U.S. Seeing odd sights. And eating cheap but good food.”

“That sounds fun,” Ana said.

Gran was awesome. Her name was Casey Davis. She was 65. And she could do anything.

Gran didn’t just write books. She ran marathons. She also flew planes. And she had been a nurse in the army. Ana saw her medals. Most were for being brave.



“Can I go with you?” Ana asked.

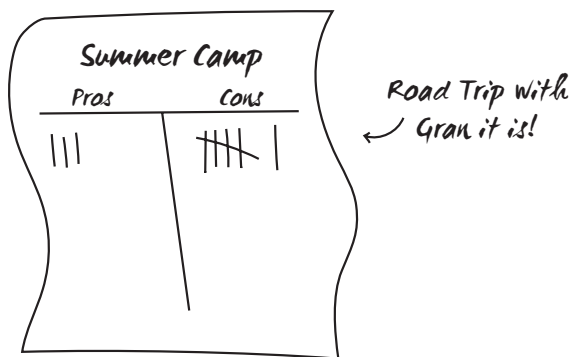
Gran smiled. “I’d love that. But your mom and dad might not.”

“But, Gran,” Ana said. “I’ve lived here my whole life. I’ve never been far from San Diego. *Please* take me with you.”

Gran said she would think about it.

Ana could see it now. The two of them off on a big adventure. Just the idea was exciting.

And think of what they would see. Deserts. Mountains. Big rivers. And big cities. There would be so many stories to tell. What if she had a choice? Road trip or camp? Camp would lose.



It was after lunch. Gran dropped Ana off at home. “Come in with me, Gran.” But Gran had to go. She had a meeting. It was about her book.

Ana said goodbye. Then she ran to the door. She was out of breath by the time she got inside.

“Mom! Dad!”

“We’re in here,” Mom called out.

Ana ran to the living room. “Gran is going on a trip. She’s going to New Orleans. She wants me to go.”

“Slow down,” Mom said. “What is this about?”

“It’s Gran. She’s going on a trip. She’s taking the RV. And she said ...” Ana stopped. “What’s wrong, Dad? Are you mad?”

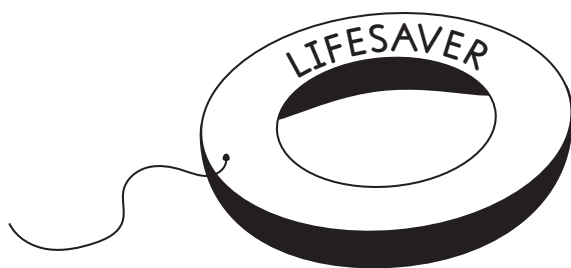
Casey Davis was Mom’s mother. Dad and Gran had never gotten along. “Ana,” he said.



“A trip like that is long. And Gran is over 60 years old. It might not be safe.”

Mom looked at Dad. “I’m sure Ana would be safe.” Then Mom looked at Ana. “What about summer camp? Your friends? You’d miss out on the fun.”

“I hate camp,” Ana said. “Something bad always happens. One girl almost drowned last year. And we all got sick. Gran will take good care of me. I *have* to go on that trip.”



## 2

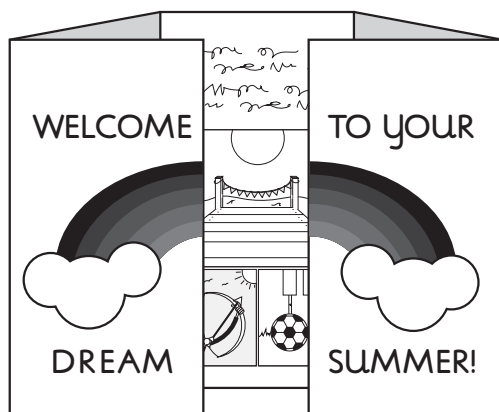
# SUMMER CAMP SUCKS

“Mom and I love you,” Dad said. “It’s our job to protect you. We can’t do that if you’re far away.”

“But Gran is a hero. She saved someone’s life. Remember? We were at that restaurant. A boy was choking. Gran saved him. She was on TV. Gran can do *anything*.”



“I know you think that. And you may be right,” Mom said. “But, please, just think about camp. Look at the brochures. Go online. Check out the fun activities.”



“It’s summer,” Dad said. “You should be with other kids. You can be with Gran some other time. Besides, I planned some trips. An amusement park. Fishing. Camping on the beach. We want you there. Your brother would miss you.”



Ana went to her room. She opened her laptop. She didn't go to the camp's website. But she did go online.

She typed into the search box. *Places between San Diego and New Orleans*. She clicked on the first link. A list of states came up. Arizona. New Mexico. Texas.

*Places between San Diego and New Orleans* 🔍

Ana was more excited than ever. She couldn't wait to tell her friends.

It was the next day before school. Ana was outside her classroom. Three of her friends were there too.

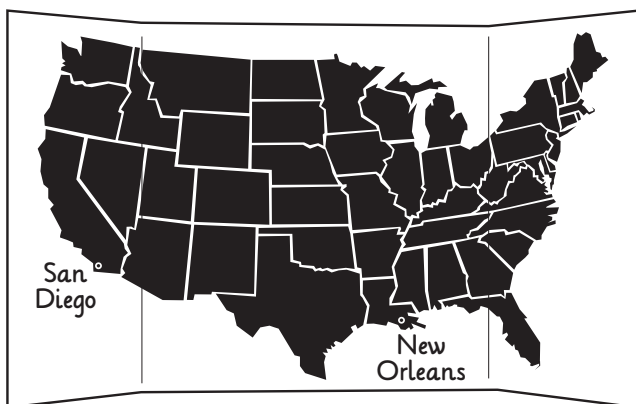
"You're not going to summer camp?" Katie asked. Katie was Ana's best friend. "What are you going to do?"

Ana smiled big. She waited a few seconds.

Then her eyes opened wide. “Road trip!”

“No way!” Katie said.

“Yep. My grandma is driving to New Orleans. She wants me to go.”



“Wow! That is awesome,” Emma said.

“I wish I were going. Is it for sure?” Leah asked.

“I think so,” Ana said. “I asked my parents. I told them I’m not going to camp. That would ruin my summer. And my life. They just have to let me go.”





It was later that night. Ana was in bed. Sleeping was not easy. She kept thinking about the trip. After a while she heard her parents' voices. She went into the hall to listen.

"It's a crazy idea," Dad was saying. "Taking a child on a long trip like that? What is your mom thinking?" Dad asked. "She's not normal. Maybe it's her age. She is getting older."

"My mom is not old. She's brave. Look at all that she's done. Saving lives as a nurse. Flying planes. And then my dad died. She raised me and my brothers on her own. Maybe she's not normal. But I think that's a good thing."

“Do you want Ana to go?” Dad asked.

“She really wants this. And it would be a great experience. Think about that. She’ll learn so much. I want that for her.”

“Let’s call your mom,” Dad said. “We can talk to her about it.”

“Yes!” Ana whispered.

Mom called Gran. Ana listened as they made plans. Dad still wasn’t happy. But Ana was.



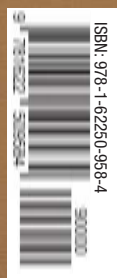
# One AMAZING Summer

Nothing like a good  
road trip! See the  
U.S.A. Explore every  
nook and cranny.



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