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Sunday Dinner

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Nicole Baldwin
Riverton, Utah
December 2018

“Sunday Dinner”

Custom/Tradition

Informant:

Nicole Baldwin was born and raised in Riverton, Utah. She is an undergraduate student at USU who is majoring in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations. In her free time, Nicole likes to hammock, watch movies, bake, and chill with friends. She also really likes dogs and motorcycles. Nicole’s favorite holiday is Christmas because she loves her family, the snow, drinking hot cocoa, and the cheesy Christmas movies.

Context:

I did this interview with Nicole over the phone and she had just woken up from a nap. The noise level was very quiet with a faint interruption from my roommates once or twice. The feeling was very relaxed and comfortable because Nicole and I were roommates last year at Snow College and we talk to each other every few weeks. The following piece of folklore was in the response to my question about whether or not she had any holiday or family traditions. Nicole explained that her family had weekly dinners on Sunday.

Text:

“Growing up we always had family dinners. Mostly Sundays we would um have dinner and then watch TV as a family. Like that was just like the best-I loved doing that. It was just it was mostly just crime shows that we would watch like *The Mentalist*, *Psyche*, *Monk*, um oh there’s another one but I totally can’t think of what it’s called though. But yeah we would just watch a movie all the time.”

Texture:

Because she had just woken up from a nap and was still tired when we did the interview, Nicole had a hard time remembering some of the specifics about her traditions. This resulted in a lot of um’s, like’s, statements about not remembering or being able to think of it, and long pauses illustrated by ellipses. Nicole also talks really fast as her normal speed, so she had a lot of little interjections about details to add in here and there for clarity. It was kind of funny because she talked fast but also had really long pauses, and it was an interesting combination. Nicole’s voice was tired and not very energetic, at least not the way she normally sounds, but her voice increased in excitement when she talked about how much she loved spending time with her family at these dinners. There was also a fondness and a tinge of wistfulness in her tone as she talked about spending time with her family, something she doesn’t do as often now that she is

going to school. We have been roommates and friends since last year, so the interview was very informal and casual in telling her story. Nicole has a strong bond with her family and lives a very family-centered life because it is one of the most important things to her.

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ENGL 2210: Introduction to Folklore
Dr. Lynne McNeill
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