

Music Within Us

Perfection is hard to achieve. No matter how much work we put in, there is no such thing as a perfect job, person, or life. In the book, “The Giver”, they tried to create a perfect world by getting rid of everything that would set people apart. The smallest difference would ruin this perfect world. But in reality, there is no way that everyone can be the same. We all have different things that make us cry, laugh, yell, or love. Similarly, we all have different opinions on what makes us feel at complete peace, free from disturbances. The sound of peace is different for everyone because every individual is unique. For some it can be a strange but funny noise to make one laugh, calming sounds of music, brush strokes for artists, piano chords for musicians, or cheering after winning a game. Peace is whatever makes you feel loved, caring, ecstatic and comfortable. The sound of peace for me is when I laugh with my friends and family uncontrollably. I wanted to learn more about how peace sounds like for others and asked my best friend, my sister, and my mom.

Sydney, my best friend, has always been a bookworm. I know for a fact that one of my best friend’s sounds of peace are flipping through pages of a crisp book from the library. She tells me that everytime she flips over a new page, she gets excited about what she will find out about the main character’s life. Sydney enjoys reading with music and likes to match the song with the book she is reading. If she is reading a sad book, she likes to put on sad music. The melody of the music combined with the flipping of the pages helps Sydney feel at complete peace. But Sydney also loves to play softball and is a batter for our middle school team. When she is on the softball field, she loves hearing the ball hit her bat and soar through the air, winning a point for her team. She practices for hours to get the perfect hit, and when she does, she knows all of her hard work paid off and she feels at ease.

My sister is one of my greatest role models. In high school, she attended a boarding school where she was all on her own from a young age. She had to do her laundry all on her own, make sure she ate, and figure out life by herself. Sometimes when we would call her very late during the weekend, her tone was exhausted, she looked worn out, and had tons of piles of paper lying in front of her. Now she is in college and she has to do all of the same things, plus figure out what the rest of her life will be. I know she has a lot going on, and when I asked her what she likes to do in her free time, she told me she likes to go get dinner with her friends and explore the city. Complaining about professors or talking about funny events while eating tasty food gives her peace in the middle of her busy life. After her finals finish, she always comes home on a train. My sister told me how the steady click clack and the sounds of the conductor make her feel at peace because in just a few hours, she will be back home with us, laughing as if she never left.

My mom has a job that she goes to every morning, and somehow, she is also able to be a wonderful mother to me and my two siblings. She leaves early in the morning and comes late at night, but when me or my brother have art class or soccer practice, she always changes her schedule and makes sure to take us. If I need help on my math homework, she is always willing to help me. Even on boring days, she makes us feel better when we are down and plans something fun, like taking us to the zoo or the park. Sometimes I wonder how she can handle everything. My mom is one of the most hardworking people I know and rarely seems to have time for herself. With her busy schedule, peace is hard to find. When I asked her what makes her feel at peace, she tells me it is when my entire family is all together and getting ready for bed. The sounds of us all brushing our teeth, clothes making a sound when we are all hugging each other goodnight, and crinkling sounds of our blankets as we are getting tucked in. Afterwards,

she calls our dad who has to live away from us, and she falls asleep to his voice, helping her get peaceful rest after a long day.

The sound of peace is different for everyone because we are all so different. Some people can become peaceful from the sound of a gong, but another person might find it really annoying. For me, I find the sound of acrylic paint strokes against a clean canvas to be the most perfect sound ever and it gives me a sense of peace whenever I hear it. Even the smallest things like the intro song for a Disney movie, hearing your younger siblings say his first word, or revving of a car engine are all things that might feel peaceful for some and not for others. It could also be big, important moments like hearing your name being called up for an award or your high school graduation. There is no limit to how many sounds give you peace. Additionally, sounds of peace may change in a couple of days, minutes, or years. Strangers, classmates, siblings may have their own sounds of peace that you might've not thought of, which makes it so special. Everyone is made up of a collection of their perfect sounds, and that to me, is a perfect world.