

Dear Mom

I have to write you this letter for my school assignment. I don't know if you are ever going to have a chance to read it or if I will ever have the nerve to give it to you.

When I was growing up, grandpa spoke nothing but Spanish. You and everyone else spoke English and Spanish. Do you know how hard this really was for me being deaf? It was confusing. This is why I spent a lot of time with my friends or by myself. I was in my own world a lot of time. At school the teachers helped me to speak better English, trying to improve my speech but when I would come home after school there was nothing but Spanish being spoken since you and my aunt were at work. It would be hard to communicate with grandpa but we tried to understand one another. Funny how when he talked to me he tried using hand signs or point at something to make me understand what he wanted. As hard as it was understanding grandpa I would still somehow get what he was trying to say.

You were never really around for me when I was going to elementary or middle school. So I don't know if you really remember everything I had to go through. Even though my school experience was not bad at all I wish you had been more available for me so that I could share certain things with you. I know you tried your best by showing up to school recitals and parents teacher conferences but something was missing. I can't complain about school at all because no one made fun of me or picked on me because of my disability. Looking back now that I am 22, I wish that I could have had the opportunity to learn sign language instead of the teachers concentrating on perfecting my speech.

Remember the time when you try to help me with my homework it wasn't easy because I needed extra help in completing my assignments. Schoolwork has never been real easy for me because I need for you to have patience with me when you help me.

I know sometimes you think that I am rude but sometimes I don't realize it. It's not that I a yelling or ignoring you, it's that sometimes I don't get it. I don't get what you are trying to tell me when you yell or when you're starting to say things from another room and finish saying things in my face and expect me to understand what you just said. I'm not slow or retarded! Mom if you got to know other deaf people you would see that I am not that different from them or maybe we just need to understand each other better.

Oh I just wish!!!!