

An ode to my Mimi

My mouth can't form the words I want to say to you my friend
Your kindness and teachings shaped the man I am today
You treated me like a person, not a kid, my whole life
I can't believe your crazy journey has suddenly come to an end

You took me to the big screen films when "I wasn't old enough"
We watched all the shows I wanted to, not what dad said was ok
You filled the cabinets with junk I liked, but let's be real you loved it too
I'd tell mom and dad we had a wonderful time, and they'd never call my bluff

We adventured to amusement parks when you lived in the sunshine state
I remember riding spider-man a lot because it didn't have any loops
We would come up every Christmas and you'd shower me with gifts
I'd be on the verge of screaming when I'd see you and Papi at the airport gate

I love your little house in Clemson. My favorite place in middle school
I'd stay up all night and watch tv with a tube of chips in hand
We would pick up pizza at the local shop and rent movies at the blockbuster
You even taught me how to golf, but we would sometimes bend the rules

As I aged on through the years, I had less grandma time
I could go to movies with my friends, and order pizza on the phone
I'd stay up all night anyways, but cramming for exams instead
My new challenge was girls, not improving scores on the back nine

We went through Papi's alzheimer's together
I still can't believe how well you cared for him and how strong you were
It must be hard to see the man you love spiral away from reality
It all seemed like a storm but we made it through the weather

You taught me the secret to life is to make friends everywhere I go
I learned it's not cool to snitch, and that sometimes it's ok to be angry
You taught me to care for others more than myself as you helped everyone around you
I hope to be that kindhearted one day. I still have lots of room to grow

I'll remember all the times we had, the good ones and the bad
Like how you'd blow a gasket in public or flip out on poor mom
Or how you feuded with the family but somehow kept me on your side
Your temper was a fickle one, and if I wanted I could always make you mad

I'll be sad you aren't at my graduation as I throw my stupid hat into the air
I wish I could introduce you to the girl I bring home and keep for more than a week
At least I don't have to watch you wither away like some normal old lady
But now you're gone and just a legend, it just doesn't seem fair

I'll always love you Mimi, in this world and the next one
Your kindness and love lives on in your grandson and your loving family
You taught me so much and inspire me still
To press on through life, and never forget to have a little fun.