



Englisch, Gesellschaft, Geografie für Sek I und Sek II

Teens in the USA

1. Katie – between wildlife and music

09:54 Minuten

00:12 Katie and her family on a Sunday afternoon. Like most people in Missouri, Katie's family often goes hunting – at least, during hunting season. For the 15-year-old, shooting guns is a part of everyday life.

00:26 Katie: *"We are shooting clay birds right now. When it's not hunting season we do this just to keep sharp on shooting. And it's a fun thing to do. I get kind of competitive. Many girls don't like to do this, but I've liked to do it ever since I was about eleven. Among other things, this is what I like to do."*

01:11 Missouri is half the size of Germany and has fewer than 6 million inhabitants. This is Katie's house, surrounded by woods, fields and lakes – quite a way from the nearest neighbors!

01:23 Katie: *"All the land behind me is the land that my family owns. We're not farmers, because we have this much land. We just have it, and a lot of people in Missouri have a lot of land that they don't farm. My dad works in construction and my mum works for a dentist. I'll probably end up with all of this someday, but I don't plan to farm it. I plan to become a professional singer."*

01:46 Mr Dell is the Choir teacher at Hermann high school. Choir is not an extra-curricular activity. It's a proper class and students are graded for it. Some time ago Mr Dell discovered that Katie has a hidden talent.

02:02 Katie: *"Like everyone in Hermann my family does have German roots and I'm singing a German song, but I apologize because I don't speak German and my pronunciation will probably sound very bad."*

02:19 Katie's classmates know exactly what's coming next. They wait with baited breath.

02:57 A big round of applause for 15-year-old Katie who has never been to an opera before or had any singing lessons apart from choir.

03:04 Band practice in school. The Maifest is coming up, and the school band has to rehearse for the big day.

03:31 The Maifest is the biggest event of the year in Hermann, and Katie doesn't want to miss out on it.

03:41 Katie: *"Marching in the Maifest parade with our marching band is a highlight for our year and I'm looking forward to it."*

03:49 Back to nature. With a four wheeler through their property, or fishing at the family lake, these are normal activities for Katie's weekends.

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04:08 Fishing is a family pastime. Katie and her younger sister have been doing it since they were little.

04:16 Katie: *"I do like to fish and hunt. There are not a lot of girls that do. But out here there are more girls than in the city or something like that. And it's kind of something to do, because we don't really have malls out here. And it is nice to shop, but I don't really like it as much as some do. It's kind of boring."*

04:37 For Katie fishing is not boring: she soon catches her first fish. Removing it from the hook is something she doesn't like to do. Her mom gives her a hand.

04:52 And then something special happens: a giant bite.

05:00 Katie's dad has to wear out the huge fish before hauling him in with a net. He's far too heavy for the line.

05:34 Katie: *"He's huge. It's the biggest thing I have ever seen come out of that lake."*

05:45 Katie and her family are proud of their giant-sized catch.

05:55 Back home, they prepare the fish.

05:59 Katie: *"It's not a profession or anything, it's just kind of a hobby. And we just eat our hobby."*

Chris (Katie's father): *"We freeze quite a bit. During the wintertime we can have a fish fried every now and then. We'll freeze, I would say, like a gallon bag. We might freeze six to eight of those a year. Just for the winter time."*

06:25 Katie enjoys hunting and fishing, but preparing the spoils is still something she likes to leave to her dad.

06:43 Whenever Katie's family eats a meal, there's nearly always something on the table. They're either grown or caught, whether meat, vegetables or fish.

06:55 The city of Hermann lies on the banks of the Missouri River and was founded by German settlers in the early 19th Century. The city has a population of 2600 inhabitants. 355 students attend the local high school. Like Katie, many come from the area around the city.

07:26 In Hermann high school, Government is a compulsory subject.

07:31 Katie: *"We are in Government class and we learn about the US government and our state government. And we take two tests at the end of the year. The Missouri constitution test and the United States constitution test, and we have to pass those to graduate high school, and if you don't then you can't graduate."*

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07:50 This makes Government one of the most important classes in Hermann High. Students learn not just about the political background of America, but also matters of local government in the state where they live. Besides Music, Government is one of Katie's favorite subjects.

08:09 Katie: *"I like Government class because it's kind of nice to know what's going on with your country."*

08:16 The students don't have to bring their books with them every day, thanks to the locker system.

08:26 The big day has finally arrived: the Maifest! It's a major event for the whole city.

08:31 Katie: *"I am really excited about the parade today, and it's sunny, so that's good, not raining. I love music and I'm getting nervous. So that's good. It's going to be a great parade."*

08:50 The «Maifest» and its parade is a tradition started by German settlers centuries ago. The city of Hermann keeps this tradition alive. Lots of visitors come from all over Missouri to take part in the celebration.

09:14 Katie: *"I think the parade went well. It was really fun and I'm feeling good about it. And it was a workout, because my drums are really heavy and we had to walk a while. But it was fun. I feel good, I feel great, I'm happy."*