

Shopping

By Sarah Kendrick

Brattleboro Area Middle School, Grade 8

Shopping is a lot of fun. When you go to the mall and you go into a hundred different stores you feel amazing. There are so many things you can buy — more things than anyone could ever purchase in one day. Most times when I go to the mall I end up having to go to the car two or three times during the day. I absolutely love shopping.

Although shopping is a lot of fun, it can be extremely exhausting. There are so many different stores to go into. My favorite clothing stores are Abercrombie and Fitch, Hollister Co., Pac Sun, and American Eagle. Because they are near each other, I can usually go to all my favorite stores. Sometimes I will walk out of a store with two or three bags, or sometimes I'll walk out empty handed. When I sit down for lunch, I'm tired but I can't wait to go back out and shop some more. There are always piles of bags so all the bags go on one of the benches.

After lunch I usually have to make a quick stop at the car so that I have a way to carry the bags I will acquire. As long as I don't prolong the visit to the car, my mom doesn't care. When we go to the car we have to bring whatever my mom has bought too. Usually her bags are the heaviest of all because it isn't clothing but a panini maker or something like that.

One time when I was at the mall I saw Colin at the pet store in the mall. He was looking at puppies. He waved to Olivia and me through the window.

The day we saw Colin was the day I bought my favorite thing ever: a pair of blue plaid pajama pants. They are cotton but they are still really warm. That day at the mall was just like any other until we walked into Aerie. Hanging on a rack were my pajamas. I fell in love with them as soon as I saw them. I immediately started begging my mom to get them for me. Finally she agreed and I started jumping up and down.

My mom yelled at me for being ridiculous. She finally got me to calm down by telling me that if I didn't shut up that instant she wasn't going to buy me the pajamas. I shut up immediately, handed my mom the pants and continued looking for other things to get. While I wasn't paying attention, my mom got the pajamas and had them gift-wrapped. I didn't even think about where they were until we got to the car and on the seat was a present. I ripped it open and screamed. I was so happy!

That day at the mall I got what I wanted. I was absolutely thrilled that I got the pajamas (my mom even paid for them!). We had so much fun. Shopping was just like it always is...ah-mazing!

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Closing time

By Melissa Ayn Soule | *Leland and Gray Union High School, Grade 10*

Skeleton footprints dance on the metal roof
Tinny clinks like mice feet scurry down,
Revealing themselves as water only in their fall to the ground
A gray day, draining the life from the world.
Artificial lighting, so dank when sunlight streams through the dusky windows, is now warm.
Cutting like the slashing beam of a lighthouse on the coast.
Bleary eyes the color of the storm outside blink dazedly at the saturated gloom of the morning.
Indoor adventure rules the day
Races through stores, the crazed frenzy of trying, chatting, waiting, buying, considering, weighing
Exiting with a thousand more inhibitions than upon entrance.
The malls buzz, a maddened hive.
Weaving throughout the senses, blinding and befuddling as each individual fights the current
They pulse...or stop altogether.
The deadened shoppers trail listlessly past the remaining stores.
Tired or irritated eyes lamenting and cursing the late hour of the day,
Whatever events conspired against them.
Compelled by their reflections in the darkened windows;
Sad faces framed by the sorry clothes no one bought.

Shopping Fifth Avenue

By Olivia Hamm | *Brattleboro Area Middle School, Grade 8*

Shopping. Just the thought of going shopping makes me happier. I think that the best place I've ever gone shopping was probably Fifth Avenue in New York City. I went on vacation to New York over the summer and we went shopping one day. It was amazing to see all the people and all the stores, the buildings towering above us. Since Vermont doesn't have any big cities to compare to, it was...stunning.

It makes you feel like you're important when you go to Tiffany's and there are people just to push the elevator buttons for you. Inside the store was magical, seeing all the jewelry that was beyond my budget, but so beautiful. Everyone there is so polite and patient. They didn't mind waiting for me as I tried to decide what I was going to spend my hard-earned babysitting money on. I looked through case after jewelry case of gorgeous gems and metals, trying to decide which necklace I wanted. I ended up choosing a small silver heart pendant, which I absolutely loved.

And then there's the madness of Fifth Ave. Abercrombie and Fitch is a good example. When we went, there was a line wrapping around the block. It seemed like whenever we walked past the store there was always a line. You have to wait to even look at the clothes, and there are a million people who are all looking around and other people at the tables and racks piled high with merchandise, trying not to knock anything over. Even though it was five floors, it seemed that there were still people everywhere, walking around the store and waiting in lines for the dressing rooms and the

cashiers.

And the crowds! It seemed like there were people everywhere — walking, shopping, trying to hail a taxi. Just waiting to cross the street was a pain; there were at least 50 people trying to cross and not get hit by cars. We finally gave up waiting for the lights, and just walked with everyone else.

Sometimes it seems much easier to just go to the Holyoke Mall, where there aren't very big crowds, and you don't have to worry about getting hit by a taxi.

Taxis. That was another challenge to shopping Fifth Avenue. There are plenty of taxis around, but it's hard to flag one down. We walked 20 or so blocks, looking for yellow cabs that didn't have people in them or that would stop. It was frustrating that no one would stop for us and tiring to walk so far. It was quite an experience to go shopping in a big city where there is not always guaranteed transportation.

This was a wonderful way to end my summer, and something that I really enjoyed. I loved having so many different stores to choose from, so many large stores crammed into a small space. I also liked that everything was not enclosed, like in a mall, and you had to walk outside to get from place to place. I got a lot of exercise from walking up and down the streets. Because everything in New York is huge — way bigger than here in Vermont — my legs were very tired by the end of our day. My trip was truly a shopping experience that I will never forget, and I am grateful that I was lucky enough to experience it.

My shopping trip

By Dylan Haskins | *Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 8*

I like shopping, but only if I have money to spend. I like shopping for dirt bike clothes and dirt bikes. I remember when I went to Land Air to get my first dirt bike. I was five years

old. It was an XR 70. I was so happy. It was very special to me. I had never had a dirt bike before. I had had a four wheeler but nothing like a dirt bike. So, shopping can be fun!

Love/hate relationship

By Elizabeth Annis

Dummerston School, Grade 7

I admit I do love shopping, but I only like some kinds of shopping, or shopping in certain places. One way I do love to shop is online. I love it because there are so many selections and half the stuff that is online isn't even in the store. Also when you are shopping online you have all the time you want, and you don't have any parents yelling at you to pick out what you want and buy it so they can leave. Another thing that I love about online shopping is that you can have something in your shopping cart and have time to decide if you really want it or need it, unlike in a store where you don't have time to think about whether you really want it or not. That's one big thing that I love about shopping online, because I tend to change my mind a lot or am not sure about my decision. Also I just find shopping in the stores to be overly stressful.

I also have to admit that there are a couple of things I do enjoy shopping for in stores, but I have to have a lot of time when shopping for these things. For example, I love trying on shoes. I don't know why, but it is just kind of fun to try on a bunch of shoes and do a little catwalk in them. It is especially fun to try on 5-inch heels, or shoes that I am wondering who would actually buy. Another thing I do enjoy shopping for in the stores are dresses — well, again, I guess it is more trying them on than actually buying them. I hate wearing dresses. I hate it, I hate it, I hate it. But I love trying them on. I guess it is fun to try them on because, it is fun to just go totally girly for a little while.

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