

November 14, 2014

Dearest Sophie,

I am writing this letter to you to give you some very important information about the future. Trust me, you can put that contraption down that keeps you occupied for hours on end, and spend 5 minutes to read this letter. I am very concerned with the way our society is heading. In my day, kids would spend hours and hours checking their social media, and texting their friends about what they did for the day. I fear that if this trend continues into the future, than our society will become one of limited person to person contact. I think you, dear, can help to make this change if you show others the dangers of society.

Before we begin, I think I should tell you a little about my life, dearest Sophie. I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 15, 1999. I lived in Marne, Michigan, until I was six, and then we moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. I lived in Colorado Springs for eight years. In Colorado, the invention of a smartphone didn't come out until 2010. When the smartphone came out, we were astonished at all of the things that it could do. Gracious, it could even turn off and on the lights for you! Reaching your friends suddenly becomes as easy as sending a text. We moved to Allendale, Michigan when I was fourteen, and I began my first year of high school at Allendale. I attended Allendale High for four years, and during those four years, I saw some disturbing changes. People relied less on person-to-person contact, and more on their smartphones. Our world slowly became one where we relied more heavily on technology, and

less and less on people. When I was younger, kids would actually communicate with each other, and not just by Instagram. If we wanted to talk to someone, we would call them, or rarely even write them a letter. It wasn't uncommon for friends to spend hours and hours talking to each other, and laughing about good and bad times. With the invention of all of this technology, my "simple" life seemingly grows more and more complicated as I am trying to keep up with "likes" on facebook, and messages on Instagram.

In my society, people used smartphones, and could send out 20 texts in a minute. As time went on, people began to have less and less face-to-face contact, and began to use their smartphones and social media as communication devices. Our world slowly became overcome with technological advancements. It wasn't considered rude to bring your smartphone to the dinner table, and text throughout dinner. That is, if you even sat down to dinner at all. I am horrified at the thought that this trend could continue into several generations. The value of family time that people would be missing out on is horrifying. Our society was governed by a government, who was filled with representatives that the people chose. The head of the government was the president, who was re-elected to office every 4 years. However, this wasn't the perfect solution, because several citizens would protest about certain laws that were passed. I fear that if society is allowed to continue on its current path, then you might be faced with a corrupt government, where people are forced to serve the government, and there is no ability to do as you wish.

I know that you may view my warnings and fears about the future as silly, but believe me, these things have happened in the past, and there is a good possibility that they will happen again. I think that if you at least listen to some of my warnings, as foolish as they may seem, you

will be better prepared to handle your future. All I am asking of you love, is to try and not get sucked into the world of technological advancements and corrupt governments, because they could someday run your life. Just try and heed my warnings, and look up from the captivating world of screens and enjoy life, because it passes way too quickly.

All my love,

Grandma Doornbos