



The Four Seasons



When I was little, our house was big.

We had a big porch, a big yard.

We had lots of sidewalk, lots of trees and bushes....and lots to do.

Every season was different.

Each season had its own sights, sounds and smells.

Each one had its own special chores, too.

Spring was really pretty.

The weather started to warm up and
there were gentle breezes

Trees began to bud, and the leaves
started to come back after winter.

The air was fresh.



There were lots of flowers. Their sweet smells filled the air.

***My favorite* was always the bright yellow forsythias that grew all around our house.**



**We always looked for the first
robin of springtime!**



**We listened for the chirp,
chirp, chirp of the crickets.**

**When we saw the first robin, and heard it chirp,
we knew that winter was over.**

**We dressed up for Easter.
Another sure sign of spring.**



***St. Patrick's Day also came
in the spring!***

**That meant it was time to do
the springtime chores.**

One of the first jobs was to clean out the shrubs.

Say what!?

Yep, clean out the shrubs.



You see, each *fall*, we'd pack some of the leaves that fell from the trees around the bottoms of all the bushes.

This helped make sure that the roots didn't freeze in the cold, cold *winter*.

But in the *spring*, we had to clean out the all the heavy, wet, old – yucky, stinky, messy - leaves so that the bushes could start to grow again.

After that, we'd wash the porch and put the awnings up again.

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We took off storm doors and windows and replaced them with screens.

That way the house didn't get too hot in the summer.





*When all that was done,
we'd head to the pond
down the street
and
hunt for **tadpoles!***





Summer follows spring....



**Summer was sunny and hot. The days grew longer and longer –
and we loved it!**



The trees had lots of leaves.
Shade from all the leaves
helped keep us cool.

Different flowers grew
all through the summer.

Lilacs. Violets.
Lilies of the Valley.

And *dandelions*.

(Some people don't think dandelions are
real flowers, though.)





We had
amazing
thunderstorms.

We could **smell**
them coming.

We could **feel**
the air change as
they got closer.

We'd sit on the front
porch and

watch the sky
change.

The storms would rumble and roll down the street.

***We'd run from the front porch to the back porch
and watch them roll away.***

That made the grass grow.



A lot!

The main summer chore was mowing **the grass.**



All summer long, I mowed the big lawn around our big house.

Front yard.

Side yards.

Back yard.

And no power mower.

I had to mow it all with an
old-fashioned push mower.



I loved it!

The faster I'd go, the higher the grass would fly off the blades.

**I made designs in the grass, too.
Sometimes I would spell words.
Sometimes, I'd make a picture.
Sometimes, I'd see how straight I could make all the lines.
Sometimes, I'd go all curvy.**



*In the summer,
when all the chores
were done,
we'd head to the
pond
down the street.
Now, we'd hunt for
frogs
and turtles!*





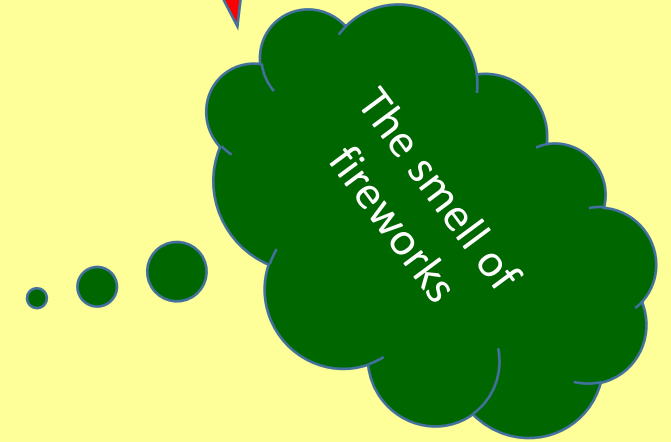
**We'd catch
grasshoppers
in the daytime
and
lightening bugs
at night.**



**We'd ride our bikes
all around town,
and
play hide-'n-go-seek
until it was dark.**



In the summer, we celebrated



The 4th of July!
Fireworks. Picnics. Fun.

*What's
your
favorite
part of
Summer?*





Fall follows summer.



Fall has another name – **autumn**.

*The weather began to cool down. Shadows grew longer.
Days grew shorter. The breezes were cooler.*

*It also got a little windier...
Little by little – all the beautiful autumn leaves
fell to the ground.*

*Quietly, before we ever realized it,
the robins had quietly flown away.*

*The coal truck came to deliver
the first load of coal before winter.*



Our favorite pond got murky.

Days began to get shorter.

**We played touch football
in the big back yard.**

**We'd trick-or-treat on
Halloween.**





The giant elms and maples that had given us shade all summer became bare.

Raking those leaves was the *big fall chore.*





**But after we raked and raked,
we also had fun!**

**We raked some of the leaves
into giant piles that we could
jump into!**

And....

**we took loads of leaves and
packed them
around the shrubs
like blankets for the roots.**



The awnings came down.

Porch furniture was stowed away.

**We took off all the screens and
replaced them
with storm doors
and storm windows.**



That way the house didn't get too **COLD in the
winter.**

Finally, we got to do one last chore of autumn.

This one was The Best!

We'd gather *all the leaves* we hadn't packed
around the bushes, and
rake them to the curb on the side of our house and

burn them up!

The fire was big and warm, but the smell.....

Ah, the smell of burning leaves is one of my all-time
favorite things.

It's the smell of all the other seasons good-bye for the year.



the smell of
burning leaves.

.....
things i love about fall



Winter follows autumn



Winter was cold and snowy.

**Days were short;
nights were long.**



**It was too cold to play
outside – almost.**

**Like the robins, the frogs were also gone for the winter.
The turtles were all asleep somewhere.**



**The pond froze over and
that made an excellent place to go ice skating.**



When it snowed, we'd build snowmen and
have snowball fights and
hide behind snow castle walls.



Or we'd find our favorite hill and ride sleds and
toboggans until our cheeks were numb.

The best smell in the winter was always hot chocolate.

It was a great way to warm up from the inside out.



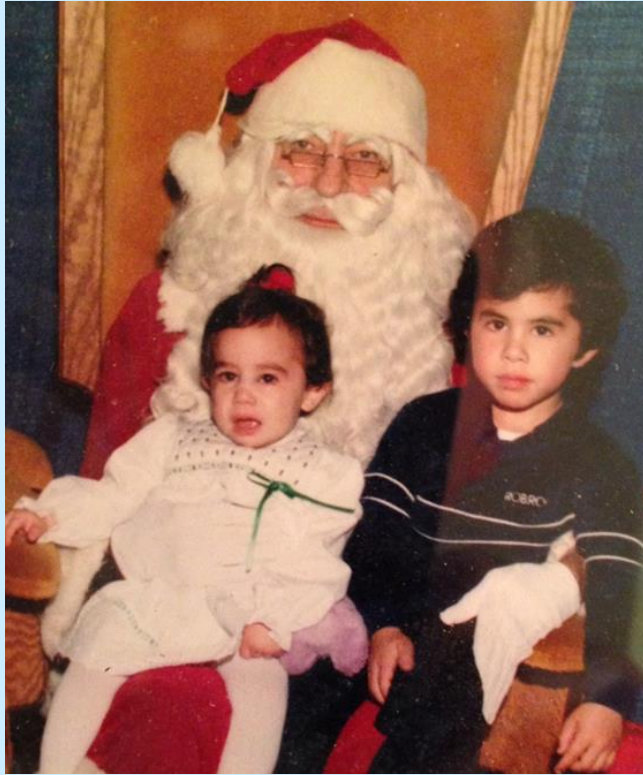
In the early winter, all the cars got their winter tires put on.

That way, we could always drive where we needed to go in the snow.



**Well, almost
always..**





In the middle of winter, we celebrated the wonder of Christmas.

Snowy winter days and nights created the biggest *winter chore*.

**Shoveling the snow.
Shoveling snow
is hard work!**



The air is cold. The snow is heavy. The wind is biting. The sidewalks are slippery.

The sight is beautiful.

We had lots of sidewalks all around the house.

And a driveway, too.



Sometimes, the snow plow would plow the streets and the snow would get piled up again - *at the end of our driveway.*

Ouch! *That* snow was cold, heavy and packed solid.



**But before long,
the days would start to get longer.**

**The weather would start to warm up
– if only a little.**

**Trees began to bud,
and the leaves started to come back.**

Spring was on the way.



Everything would start over again.





Love you!