What Being Tall Means to Me

Graham Fowler

I like being tall. Though, it is a pretty recent development, as seven years ago I was 5’5”. To me, being tall means a lot. It means being able to help others who can not necessarily do the things that you can. It means being able to laugh with others about how freakishly gigantic you are. It means having to deal with problems that many others do not have to deal with. But through it all, being tall is fun.

Being tall is an excellent gateway to being able to help other people. When my mom is baking and she can not reach the sugar at the top of a high shelf, I can reach it and grab it down for her. When my biology teacher is erasing white boards and she can not reach the top of the board to erase the last little bit, I can take the eraser and finish the job for her. When I am sitting at the table with my whole family for Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner and someone asks for the salt, the mashed potatoes, the turkey, or anything else, it does not need to be passed from person to person all the way down the table, I can just reach across and give it to them, even if I am further from the food that they asked for than they are. I can always use my height to help someone.

Being tall is just kind of funny. I let out a chuckle every time I am stood next to my friends or family members and realize just how much taller than them I am. I think that it is funny to, whenever I hear people arguing about who is taller between two people, stand up. An action which is almost always met with the sentence: “Sit the hell back down Graham!” I find it amusing to, every time someone asks me the question: “why are you so tall,” which is an objectively stupid question, answer: “Scotland,” and give no other context.

Being tall is not always good though. Sometimes, being tall means hitting your head on every single doorway in your grandparent’s house and having it hurt just as much each time, especially because you should have known the second time that that would have happened. Sometimes, being tall means being asked by every third person you meet if you play basketball, even though, if they actually looked at your body type, they would instantly be able to tell that you have not played a sport in four years. Sometimes, being tall means that, simply because of the way your body is constructed, you have to live with lower back pain for your entire life. Sometimes, being tall means not being able to find clothes that fit, because everything is either long enough but too wide, or thin enough but too short. So you just have to wear whatever fits with no regard for fashion and whatever you do find is ridiculously expensive. So being tall has quite a few painful drawbacks.

Being tall lets you help people, it brings people together, and it makes you stronger through the challenges that it presents you. Being tall has its ups and it has its downs, but, in the end, I love being tall and I would not trade it for the world.