

Mangrove Essay

Your grandma was a determined woman that overcame an obliterate flood. She kept everything written down in her journal about her experience with the mangroves and the floods. The piece from her journal that I am about to read to you is from the time she dealt with the floods and what did afterwards. She wrote, "Mangroves were the reason that Miami Beach was stable for a short period of time. Miami was in trouble because of the floods caused by the hurricanes. The mangroves that were planted near the beach and my house helped me survive for the time. I did not have water, but the mangroves provided me water because they maintain water quality and clarity. The floods were not as bad at first because the roots, trunks, and canopies of the mangrove trees helped reduce the force of the waves and storm surge. Unfortunately, one day many of the mangrove trees were destroyed when a wave of strong currents started to terrorize the streets of Miami.

As the minutes passed by, Miami was sinking little by little. It took me about an hour to find shelter that could protect me from the water. I was petrified of the things the hurricane brought to the city I was raised in. I saw my favorite restaurant, Lime, starting to drown with the memories I made in there. I recall spending all my time there with friends and family just having a great time. Seeing all the places I grew up by sink and collapse made me very emotional. I even think my tears that fell into the water made the water rise. My mind started to think about the mangroves and how they could have helped me, and the citizens survive through this disaster. If only they weren't destroyed... I took out my radio from my bag and a reporter announced that about 10,000 people have died inside and outside of Miami.

This whole thing reminded me of the hurricane that occurred in 1928. The mangrove trees didn't really help reduce the flooding and erosion that the hurricane caused. The hurricane was a category 5 storm, just like this one, and it caused damage throughout Florida. I heard somewhere that the flooding caused by the hurricane touched the roofs of houses and buildings! The hurricane of 1928 seemed similar like the one happening right now, almost too similar. I knew I had to escape Miami before I died. I swam and ran as fast as I could out of Miami until I was in a small community that was still not hit by the hurricane and its floods. As I was walking through the neighborhood, a nice family invited me to stay until Miami recovered. I thought I was going to stay with them for a week, but I ended up staying with them for 2 months. During those two months, I learned that the city I grew up in, Miami Beach, had sunk completely. I was devastated to find out that the city had failed.

Since Miami no longer existed, commissioners, construction workers, and government officials had to reconstruct a new island. This new island was as big as Miami was, and it even contained the same vibes my city had. The new island had high buildings, modern houses, a beach surrounded by mangrove trees, parks, and the same restaurants that existed in Miami. A high school called Miami Beach Senior High was recently built here on the island. I hope my future children and their children go to this school because mangroves have been planted here and it's nice to know that it has them because mangroves are handy in certain situations. I now learned how to love the island and I am extremely grateful for surviving the disaster and being able to see the island I now live in." I can't believe she went through all of that. I am in awe that I can read my great great grandmothers' story to you!