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A Trip to the Past

By Dylan Brewer

A young couple gets married and has a baby boy. The child stays with grandparents while the couple works and goes to school. The child is over protected. The boy grows and is bullied in school. The boy goes into homeschooling and must make new friends. The boy goes to a local technology center in high school. The boy graduates and goes to a nearby college.

From childhood, we experience cause and effect. Every cause has an effect, and it is those chains of chains and effects that shape us growing up. In the short story we see several causes and several effects. The boy's past helps shape him but does not define him. According to Landry Brewer, "Those who don't learn from their history, end up repeating it." Our history is something we must learn from, but it does not make up who we are as a whole. Our actions are what define us, and our actions are causes.

Let's look at some effects first. A child stays at the grandparents' house. The child is over protected. The child is bullied. These are merely a few effects we can see in the story, but what are the cause? The child staying with the grandparents can be traced back to it being a young couple. A young couple with a new baby would need to make more money to feed him. The boy being overprotected could be a result of many things, but the most common is probably the child being the first born. As for the boy being bullied, what could cause that other than just some jerks at the school? Be-

ing over protected means seeing less of the outside world. Overprotection often leads to bullying due to lack of a defense to it and everything on the outside.

Those are some of the things that shaped the boy, but they do not define who he is. Let's take a look at time of the actions that he took, his causes. An obvious one is leaving public school for homeschool. The cause, leaving; the effect, he must make new friends. The boy decides to attend a technology center. This is a choice, a cause. What does something that simple cause? The effect is that he wishes to further his education even more after leaving, so he ends up enrolling in a college.

Little things have an effect; it can be small or large. A cause always has an effect, and these effects shape us, but the things we cause are what define who we are. We must learn from our history, but if we live in it, we will never have a future.

