

The Cyclone

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One of the most fun things I have ever challenged myself to do took place at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on June 4, 2012. Finally the day we had all been wait for had arrived: our class trip to the Boardwalk! My friends and I were so excited to be going together. When we arrived, we got our wristbands, and our class took off! After several happy, fun-filled hours, two friends and I arrived in front of the monstrous Cyclone. This was one of Peter's favorite rides: a gigantic yellow wheel, with cages and only a thin restraining strap. I had some doubts about what this thing would do, so we watched. After the first group of teenagers went in, it tilted 46 degrees into the air and slowly began spinning. After a short time, it increased speed and then turned a side up nearly 90 degrees into the air!

It's kind of embarrassing to admit, but when I saw that, I was completely freaked out. There was no way I was going to ride on that thing! I was filled with terror; my heart was thumping, and I felt as though I would throw up. Yet even as all these emotions surged through me, my friend went into the line. I followed but my other friend did not. We were in the line for 10 minutes, but to me it felt like 10 seconds. Then we entered the Cyclone. As I got in I wondered why I was doing this, but knew if I backed out then I would look like a complete wimp. All too soon it started and we spun around gradually gaining momentum. And then it sped up at what seemed an impossible rate. The wheel turned one side up. As I was spun around I looked down. It seemed as though I could see the whole boardwalk beneath me. Spinning around and pinned to the cage by a centrifugal force, it dawned on me that this wasn't so bad after all! As the ride lowered

and stopped after three exhilarating minutes I realized that this was incredibly awesome!
We immediately went on again; this time my other friend Cassie joined us. She liked it as well, and we rode it again and again.

I now believe the Cyclone is the best ride in the world; I think it is amazing and can't wait for my next trip to the Boardwalk so I can ride it again. If that is not challenging myself and ending up happy, tell me what is!