



Englisch, Gesellschaft, Geografie für Sek I und Sek II

Teens in the USA

2. Cullen – getting into gear

09:54 Minuten

00:12 Cullen has a lot of hobbies, including the trombone. He's fifteen years old, lives in Hermann, and can't wait to get his driver's permit, something he's allowed to do in Missouri at the age of fifteen.

00:24 Cullen: *"There is absolutely nothing for teenagers in Hermann at all. We don't have a bowling alley, we don't have a movie theatre. We don't even have a MacDonald's! That's why I think so many people do after school stuff, like band or choir or cross country, or football, soccer, baseball, softball, track - all those things - to stay occupied. But until you can drive, you can't do really anything at all in Hermann."*

01:27 Cullen is a member of the high school marching band; he also takes part in the school's track and field team, a theatre group, and the school choir. But the thing he'd like to do most, is something he's still not allowed to do.

01:43 Cullen: *"This is my car. I can't drive it until next week, because I have to get my driver's permit. I worked a very long time in a factory to save up enough money for it. I think it's cooler than a lot of other vehicles around here, like big trucks. I think the smaller Mini Cooper kind of cars are way cooler. But I can't drive it until next week, because I still have to get my driver's permit."*

02:15 Cullen has a large family: His mother, Leslie, his dad, Mike, and his siblings: Kara, Frankie, Hayden and Regan. They're not just a big family, they're also their very own sports team – competing against themselves! Cullen's father is a mechanic, his mother a secretary. The family lives 12 miles from Hermann.

02:42 Cullen: *"We don't actually live in the city of Hermann. We actually live quite a way from Hermann, in the middle of nowhere. But I think it's good to have a bigger family, because there are lots of people and you can always find someone who's not doing something to play with, like, get a board game out with. And on the weekends we have a decent number of people to play a basketball game with. We make our own fun here instead of going other places."*

03:12 Every morning Cullen has to wait for the school bus – right in front of his house.

03:20 Cullen: *"Here we don't have to go to a bus stop to catch a bus. We just walk to the end of our driveway and the bus will stop and pick us up and take us to school. It's very convenient, but it's not as convenient as driving yourself to school."*

03:40 The school bus system is not only convenient, it's also free. But still Cullen isn't a fan; he's counting the days until he can leave the 30-minute bus ride behind and take his car to school. Next week he has an appointment in the city hall to do his driver's permit.

04:00 This greenhouse is part of Cullen's school. In America, the federal states can provide special classes corresponding to the needs of their population. Missouri has a lot of land, so agriculture is an important class here.

04:14 Cullen: *"FFA means Future Farmers of America. And, here, there are a lot of farmers and farmer assistants, so this class is kind of popular - or really popular. And it's kind of important because most people around here are farmers or farmer assistants and they need to learn their stuff. And this is the class where you learn it. And it's not a required class either. You choose to take this class if you want. And a lot of people want to, because it's kind of what they do."*

04:48 After the hands-on assignment, the FFA class turns to theory.

04:56 The Future Farmers of America class is an elective. Cullen doesn't come from a farming family, nor does he intend to become a farmer, but there are plenty of things to learn in FFA which are useful for life in Missouri.

05:17 Like most American schools, Hermann High is an all-day school, and the students have lunch together. Today, while Cullen and his friends are eating in peace and quiet, a storm is brewing outside. After a sunny morning, the sky is clouding over and the wind picks up. Soon the rain sets in and a major tornado sweeps across Missouri, causing major damage.

05:42 Cullen: *"Well, this has been the worst for years for bad weather. We've had so many tornados and storms. I don't remember it being so stormy. Usually it's like one storm... weeks... another storm. Now it's day after day. You go to school, it's sunny, that night it's storming and terrible. And now there is tornado warnings everywhere. And tornados in Missouri: it's scary."*

06:12 The school takes the tornado warnings very seriously. Students have to stay in the hallway, away from windows and doors. No one is allowed to leave, not even to the restroom. The principal doesn't want to take any risks.

06:28 Leimkühler: *"OK guys, the warnings going to be expired in about five to ten minutes. Once again, I really do appreciate your cooperation. This is for your safety, and again, this is the safest place for you to be at this time, OK?"*

Katie: *"They will not let us leave until it is safe for us to get out of school. So we are just kind of bunkered here."*

Cullen: *"A tornado is just a really strong wind. It circles and forms a funnel, but the wind is spinning so powerfully it can pick up roofs off houses or cars and destroy a lot of stuff and kill a lot of people. So that's why we have to be in the safest spot for a tornado in the school. Just in case one comes by."*

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07:14 Fortunately the eye of the tornado passes Hermann by. Back home, Cullen returns to the safety of his own room and studies for the driver's permit. If he passes, he'll be able to drive when accompanied by an adult.

07:26 Cullen's mother works in this factory in an office. She helped Cullen get a job here to earn money to pay for his car. Although he can't drive his car yet, he has it with him wherever he goes.

08:02 Cullen: *"I usually work here every Tuesday and Thursday after school and on Saturdays from 7.30 to noon. And I usually get paid just a little over minimum wage, which is like \$7.55, that's what I get. And I don't really like working, but I have to do it to get money to buy stuff."*

08:30 The big day arrives – Cullen doesn't want to mess up. His mother, Leslie, gives him a couple of last minute tips.

08:45 Leslie is almost as nervous as Cullen, but she's confident he'll pass the test. Which he does.

09:15 Cullen gets into gear. Until he turns 16, he can only drive with an adult. For the rest of the afternoon he cruises along Missouri's roads in his very own car, loving every minute of it.