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Choosing histories between TV and books.

My Literacy Narrative is connected to my mom's lack of literature during her childhood. I had books before I was born and reading at home was as normal as talking to each other. Reading time was a fun time until cable TV came, but the same way it came it went away because my mom shut it off when I stopped reading to watch TV.

My mom's name is Isaura, she was born and raised on a farm with no books. She and her brothers and sisters use her to go to school, but the school in the countryside was not good enough. When she moved to the city to pursue her high school diploma, she almost failed her first year. She struggled a lot with Portuguese, she was able to read the words, but she was not able to understand what she was reading. After that, when she was in college, she struggled again although this time her difficulties were with the most spoken language in the world. Because of that, my mom decided that when she had a child she would teach the importance of reading and studying English, and she would make it a habit in her house.

As a child, I can remember having books and my mom reading at home. Before I learned how to read, I already knew how to tell Grimm's fairy tales (the children's version) because I had a collection of all the books. I was 6 when my mom gave me the English version of the fairy tales, and when I was 10 she enrolled me in extra English classes. And why I am telling you all

that? Because reading and studying English was a rule. She never thought that I would study in the United States, this was her choice and because of her, I was ready for it.

I was 7 or 8 years old when cable television became popular in Brazil and my mother decided to buy one. I remember employees from the cable company going to my house and installing the antenna on a Friday and coming again on the following Tuesday to take it back because my mother backed out of the contract. Can you imagine why she went back on the contract? Because these days I don't read, I spent the weekend watching TV, on Monday I didn't want to do my homework, I wanted to watch cartoons. She had two choices: have conflicts at home over the TV or cancel cable TV. She canceled the service, at the age of eight I was not interested in TV programs or local news (they were free) and my mother watched the local news at lunchtime and the national news at night.

My mom's decision to cancel cable TV was a smart choice, it made me keep reading books and maintaining a good study routine. I must thank her because today I have a good education base, I speak two languages and I have good reading habits. This is a fun fact that proves she was always right. When I turned 18, I moved to another city because of my first college, I started sharing an apartment with two friends and I bought my first television. I noticed that my performance dropped a lot, I wasn't working out, and I wasn't doing my household chores. I would start watching a TV series and only stop when the season ended (thank God I did not start watching "Friends", otherwise I would still be there today). Because of this, I ended up returning the TV to the store. Nowadays, I'm 24 years old and I still don't have a television. I watch movies at the cinema or when I visit my friends' houses. As a result, I continue to read and manage to maintain a good routine.