

A Grocery Day

By Ashley Miller, age 12

It's a beautiful Saturday, and time for the weekly errands and running to the store. Dana is a successful business manager at a large firm she started herself. Her children attend the best schools, but spend a lot of time there, as her job keeps her tied up; managing over 1,000 employees. She is a born leader.

Irene, on the other hand, is involved in every PTA meeting at her children's school and helps to organize fund-raisers and committees for everything from mission trips to cheerleading. She's the social butterfly...which sometimes means that the actual organization falls through as a result of catching up with the latest gossip!

Sarah is Mrs. Suzy Homemaker. She enjoys being a stay-at-home mom, and spends her time with her family as often as possible, preferring the comfort of family over a large social life. She enjoys being a support and sounding board for her family.

Then we have Charlotte, an accountant before marriage, who is considering going back into the field. She sometimes has difficulty relating to people and is more content to look at the facts and stick to the way things have always been done. Parenting has been difficult for Charlotte, as her two children tend to be spontaneous and unpredictable. She makes lists and gives detailed directions for most situations.

Today is the day that Dana needs to go grocery shopping. She sets aside an hour on Saturdays to get it done. By that time she knows what she needs for the week and has a mission. She steps foot in the grocery store and...she's off! She goes only to the aisles that have the essentials that she needs, and in less than half an hour she is out the door, groceries in hand and ready to move on to the rest of her agenda.

Irene has also decided to get her shopping done today. As she drives to the store, she calls her closest friend on her cell phone just to chat. She is still chatting away as she walks into Kroger, alert and searching for anyone she may recognize. She gets her shopping done, all the while making new friends and chatting with old ones. She discovers the lady in the produce section just started a potluck club to help out the needy families in the area. After they exchange numbers, she moves along, going up and down each aisle reveling in the knowledge that shopping, for her, is just another vehicle for socialization.

Sarah has taken her girls to the mall for the day, and of course given in to their begging for yet another outfit. After trudging out with arms full of the girls' "must haves" she states that she needs to just "run in to Harris Teeter for a few things." Her girls wait in the car, and she takes her list of five items into the store. As she walks in the entry, she notices little mini roses on sale, and remembers how much her oldest daughter loves them. She puts them in her cart, only to spy a sale on strawberries, her husband's favorite. As she strolls down the aisles, she concocts a meal for every item she finds, thinking how much her family will love this or that and spying a cake that would be a great gift for the dear elderly couple down the street.

Forty-five minutes later, she rushes out to the car with a cart full of groceries, apologizing to her daughters for taking so long. They just look at each other knowingly, because they're used to her remembering "just one more thing."

Charlotte has planned since Monday that she needs to go to the store on Saturday at 11:30 to get the shopping done.

Since then, she has made a list of exactly what she needs in each section, from Kraft Macaroni & Cheese to Grade A Large Brown Eggs. She has written down which brand is the best to get and goes with a plan in mind. She shops very carefully, paying attention to what is on sale, and what may be a better priced item so that she can note it for next time. As she comes out of the store, she feels confident that she has saved money, but wishes she had been a little faster, as she is now running late.

Here are four women with very different approaches to a simple task. They are the extremes of D, I, S, and C and are easy to identify. Each one of us may actually combine some of these characteristics, which helps to make us unique and gives us our own style. The key is realizing your own personality and that of others; to understand not only how people differ, but how grateful we are that they do!

