Part 1:

I believe the defining moment in my life took place back in 2010. I had just started 5th grade when my parents decided to go their separate ways and get a divorce. As a kid, I was both shocked and extremely sad. I just could not believe this was happening to my family. I remember my parents sitting my brother and I down to give us the bad news. I handled the news by basically just giving up. I did not feel like going to school, seeing my friends, or playing sports. At the time, I honestly did not know how I was going get through that dark period of my life. After accepting all of the events that took place, I promised myself that I would embrace the role as “the man of the house” and take care of my mom, little brother, and grandma. I started working extra hard in school and sports to set an example for my brother. I also started helping him with all of his school work. I did all the yard work so my mom would not have to and I helped out with the laundry and other chores in the house so my grandma would not have to do as much. The reason this is the most defining moment of my life is because without this experience, I truly believe that I would not be the person I am today. Throughout this period of my life, I learned dedication and to never give up as well as life skills that are very important to be successful in the future. My relationship with God also became stronger. I learned how to be loving, selfless, a family guy, a hard worker, and a leader. To this day I still pride myself on these virtues and will continue to use them every day for the rest of my life.

Part 2:

I have many ancestors, each of whom all have wonderful stories that define who they are. But, if I had to choose the most interesting, meaningful, and defining story to me, it would have to be my Grandma Yaya. My grandma’s defining moment would be when she left Mexico with her family to come to America. Without this experience both my family and grandma’s life would be completely different. My grandma did not go to school in America so she could work and help out her family financially. When she got older, she had my mom, aunts, and uncle. She raised them as a single parent and they all turned out to be exceptional kids, students, and later on parents. My grandma worked multiple jobs to provide for her children and never gave up or abandoned them. Along the way, my grandma picked certain life skills, values and beliefs that she passes down to me and the rest of my family. Even today, I see the same values she learned long ago as she walks through my journey with me, helping me every step of the way. She teaches me how to be strong, faithful, hardworking, loving, helpful, and loyal. These values are what define my grandma. My grandma and mom are the two strongest people I have ever met. If she and her family had never left Mexico, who knows how different my grandma would be. But as far as I know, that experience made the grandma I know and love today.