

Still Free

By Suzy Hopkins

“Free. What does it mean, Gramma Nonnie?” my 4-year-old granddaughter asks.

I answer, “It means it costs nothing, like the air.”

“What is air?”

“Good question,” I say.

When you try to explain air to a little girl you realize you both take the fact that the air is breathable for granted. How about in China where you can't see like you're in a heavy fog but it is the pollution? Is air pollution free? No, they pay for it with lung disease and asthma. The children pay with their freedom since they can't play outdoors or go to the parks.

I've noticed I can't buy clean air in any store. So it must still be free. Right?