



**CONTENT WARNING**

by Briana Lopez

Have you ever been on a ride that raised you up off the ground? I believe most of us have.

Was it ever scary when you first went on? Maybe you are the type of person who is afraid of heights or maybe just the type of person who is afraid of new things. Or maybe you do not have any fear, why would you?

A ride is supposed to be something to enjoy. Having fun should be the number one priority when going out to an amusement park or a carnival, right?

Fourteen-year-old Tyre Sampson was from Missouri and came to Orlando for vacation with some family members. On March 25, 2022, Sampson and family members decided

to go to ICON Park for some fun, as any family would do. According to his mother, Sampson was not allowed on most of the rides there because he was over the weight limit. Having gotten rejected from most of the rides there, he decided to try and ride FreeFall (a big attraction at the park).



They let him on and fastened him in.

Moments later, he was raised up into the air and as the ride makes a fall, he falls out his seat and to his death; all of which was captured on video.

Everyone had questions. How could this happen to a kid? What went wrong? What was the issue? Well, one of the biggest ideas people had thought when trying to solve the mystery of what went wrong was that he was above the weight limit of the ride.

While that is a significant reason as to why this had occurred, more reports have come out saying that the sensors on the seat were probably weak. A new update has come out three days ago saying that the ride's sensors had been replaced with new ones. The parents of Sampson believe that this was simply not enough and that the park should be held accountable for letting a kid get on a ride even though he was above the limit.

Are you more concerned about how safe rides are? I asked three students at A.B Miller what they think of these kinds of rides after this terrible incident happened and if it has affected the way they view rides.

"It has affected the way I think of rides because it makes me question if they think of the safety of the people on the rides when making these huge rides at parks," pondered Kaylani Gory (10). "It's understandable to be afraid of these things happening around you or to you because while these things are meant to be fun, they can be pretty dangerous."

Sophomore Heaven Rascon has a different take: "the incident has not affected my way of how I think of rides, but it affected my way of how I think of that specific place. Reason being is because they shouldn't have let this kid on the ride knowing it would be unsafe for him, but instead, they let him fall to his death."

Helen Gonzalez (10) aligns herself with Rascon claiming it has not hindered her point of view, but rather "it was an event that occurred where I wasn't present. It didn't affect anyone around me or myself. Personally, it didn't affect the way I view rides." She also added later on that she had little details about this case.

Whatever you think about this case, you should admit that this is a very sad case to think about. A kid just wanted to have fun at a cool park. I send my condolences to the family. No one should have to go through this terrible event. As I am typing this article, the parents have sued the park over the death of their son and are going through with a lawsuit. Have this be a lesson to all of us to be careful.



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