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Directions, Dreams and Destiny

Looking back upon my childhood, I am reminded of many wonderful memories. I was born to a fairly well-off family and grew up in a loving home. I could have anything I liked and always got what I wanted.

My parents traveled to many countries by themselves before they married each other, saying they could broaden their horizons through gaining a taste of different cultures and customs. Based on their own life experiences, they could make detailed future plans including how they wanted to raise their children someday. After preparing and waiting for years, my family of four immigrated to the United States in 2003 when I was only 13 years old.

The first six months in the United States were horrible. It was extremely frustrating to be unable to speak the language. My pride was hurt and I had low social confidence. But luckily, I overcame the language barrier as time passed. It took me an entire year to recover my strength and step up to face the next chapter in my life.

In high school, I was actively involved in the music scene. I was a president of my school’s show choir called New Spirit. Our group was the very first all-girl high school show choir ever in the United States. We spent hours at rehearsals to offer a great performance. Not only did I love being on stage and hearing the sound of applause, but I had a lot of fun working with fellow members and taking care of them. Though being a leader was not always easy, giving up wasn’t an option. I learned to work through situations. Thanks to my director, Mr. Maxson, I could endure. He inspired me every day. His passion towards music and his students were just inspiring. He was an amazing teacher who truly enjoyed his job.

Before long, my world crashed down on me. My father’s businesses went downhill due to an economic crisis, and to make things worse, his health deteriorated at a rapid pace. Eventually, I had to give up on going to college and decided to move back to Korea by myself where I stumbled upon the field of education by chance. I got to work at a kindergarten as a teaching assistant. Then I got promoted to an English teacher after an eventful year. I never imagined that I’d be a teacher, but fortunately, I got along with the kids very well. Moreover, the kids managed to restore me back to my bright and happy self. I was energized by their love. I can feel the impact that they had on me even till today, which is why I enjoy working with kids.

At first, I believed that I had escaped to Korea, but now I see that I was destined to come back. Korea has motivated me to teach children, and I’ve found the experience rewarding. In order to become a better teacher, I want to acquire more skills and knowledge on the craft of teaching. In my opinion, a teacher should provide students with lessons that could stimulate them. I want my students to realize how fun learning English can be. I was fortunate enough to have good teachers, and it’s my dream now to return the favor to my own group of students.