

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – 2nd Prize]

Life Is True Happiness

(Original)

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What is the meaning of life? Well, I am eight years old so I only have eight years of experience and I can't remember much of the first two years of my life. That gives me 6 years plus to sum up what life means to me.

My first ever inclination of what life meant was when I had to enroll in a kindergarten at a foreign country where I can't speak the language or understand anything about the culture. My father accepted an offer to work in Japan and we had to move to Ashiya. I had to leave my friends in Malaysia and enroll in a new school.

Everything was new to me. I felt lost and couldn't understand what the teacher was saying. It was very frightening. I felt lonely and I didn't like the new food. Even the weather was too cold for me. In Malaysia, it was always hot and sunny.

I was very sad and hurt. Although everyone was kind to me, I still missed my home, my school and everything back at Malaysia. Just when I thought it couldn't get worse, one day we had a drill for earthquake. Although it was not real, the sirens blasted like an actual emergency. We had to line up and evacuate. I didn't know what was happening and cried. I remembered my teacher telling me that it is just a practice but I couldn't understand. I refused to go to school the next day.

Then, my parents explained to me that every country was different and although Malaysia has no natural disasters, other countries which were on the ring of fire have earthquakes and it can be very dangerous. People could lose their lives if they didn't follow the guidelines for safety.

At that moment, I realized what life meant to me, that I am happy and lucky just to be alive. I didn't have to be in my birth country to enjoy every second life has given me. Life is change. Life is accepting the reality around me and embracing the difference. Life is learning. Life is also failing and being lost, but in that moment of hopelessness, I can find true happiness. I know things can change for the better.

The next day, I did go to school. I realized the food may be different but my tongue had become accustomed to the new taste and even liked it. I enjoyed learning Japanese and loved to play with my new friends. I didn't feel lonely or sad anymore.

Sometimes, we have upsetting moments, but we should not let that stop us from appreciating the happiness around us. Life only gives us one ticket to board this earth. So, in any moment of despair, we should look at all the other things that gives us happiness and embrace it. We don't need to wait for our hopes and dreams to come true or for adversity to pass to find true happiness. We should cherish every second, to stay connected with people around us, and have true happy moments in every situation.

When I lose a tooth, although I feel sad and used to cry but now, I embrace the moment. I may have lost a tooth but a new tooth is going to erupt and that is a joy. Of course, the process may hurt a little but I can't get my new tooth without going through a little bit of pain.

Even when I fail my tests, I still have a chance the next time and that hope gives me true happiness. Not just pretending to be happy because I have no other choice but being truly happy because I believe, after every storm, there will always be a warm sunshine! So, to me life is true happiness!