

## **What is Life?**

(Original)

*Maria Chernuch*

*(Age 10, Russia)*

As for me, life is happiness in my family. I have a large family: my mother, father, two sisters and I. I have 2 grandmothers and 1 grandfather, a lot of relatives. My father's mother lives with us. I am sure, that love of life begins in the family. Every day I see how our father takes care of our mother. He helps her to cook dinner, clean the house. We try to do all things about the house together. Life is a joy to see and hear the dearest people who love you. I always try to spend more time with my family, especially with father. I'm proud of him and when I get older I want to look like him. I often do pleasant things to my family: smile very often, thank my parents for cooking, help my sisters. These little things cheer up the people around me and bring a little joy in our lives. Life is a support from parents and relatives in any situation.

We live in a village and I like to help my parents to work in a garden. To see and hear nature is also happiness for me. I consider that Life is communicating with nature. Nature helps me to be calm and gives energy. Sometimes I go out into the garden and walk there watching the sky, the sun and the plants. I am sure that the trees can listen and hear. We have a lot of fruit trees in our garden. My favorite tree is an apple tree. We planted it with my father 4 years ago and now it gives tasty apples. The apple tree blossoms in spring and its smell is magic for me. I prefer spending time with my sisters among beautiful flowers, wonderful trees in our garden. I also love animals very much and we have hens, chickens, rabbits and one cow. My sister and I try to take care about our pets. I know what our domestic animals like and what they do not like. One year ago our cow was ill and I was very upset. I could not eat and sleep. I wanted to help it, but I did not know what to do. My parents called the veterinarian and he helped our cow. I decided to be a veterinarian and help animals. But now I am ten years old and try to help birds, pets. We have birdhouses in the garden and I always feed the birds. It seems to me that some birds fly to the birdhouses all the time and they thank me with their singing. The hedgehog lives in our

garden too and I leave it water and milk. I believe that Life is a help to plants and animals.

I read about plants and animals a lot. It is very interesting for me to know about nature. I have a dream - to visit an unusual place in our country. This place is located in the Republic of Mordovia. Mordovia is about 700 km from our house. This place is famous for the oldest tree in our country - the oak. This massive tree is more than 420 years old and its thickness is more than 3 meters. I saw it in the picture and this oak impressed me greatly. Large and massive oaks have always been the object of folklore among the peoples of Russia. When I imagine this oak tree I always think of the famous poem by A.S. Pushkin. He described oak as the strongest and the most beautiful tree. My parents promised me to visit this place in 2 years.

Now I take care of my favorite flowers in our house and in the garden. I have a duty to water them and I do it with great pleasure. We have different flowers at home and some of them I planted myself. Also I take care about gooseberry, currant, raspberry. My dad and I cut branches every autumn. We like to work in the garden.

In conclusion I dare say, that Life is a happy family, help for animals and plants and a good mood every day.