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Mrs. Parrott – AP Language

Autobiography Paper

Mi-Gook

The day had finally come. I had been waiting for this day for months. It was the day when my mom came back from a place called Mi-Gook. It had been almost a year since the last time I saw my mom. She left me to live with my aunt and uncle so she can go to Mi-Gook. I had no idea where or what kind of a place Mi-Gook was. All I knew was that to go to Mi-Gook, you will have to fly there. My mom used to send me letters describing this place. She used to tell me how people in Mi-Gook was white like angels and how Mi-Gook was filled with amazing sights you will never be able to see in Korea. She even told me that if I go to Mi-Gook I can become anything I want to be, even a robotic engineer, a dream goal I had ever since I was 7 years old.

I counted down the seconds in class, waiting for the final bell to ring so I can go home and see my mom. I was filled with so much excitement that I could not stop bouncing in my chair. *Tick-Tock, Tick-Tock, Ringggg*. That was my cue. I ran home like a cheetah hunting a deer. When I got home, I saw my mom's shoes, she finally came back! I ran and jumped to hug her. She didn't change a bit. She was the same childish, short, and beautiful person that I lived with before she left. Even though I was very excited to see her, my eyes could not leave her luggage. What did she bring me this time? What kind of surprise did Mi-Gook have to offer me this time? When my mom finally opened her luggage, I was bummed. All she had in her luggage were her clothes. She didn't bring a single thing for me or anyone in that matter from Mi-Gook. I asked her why she didn't bring anything; with a face of disappointed five year old. Then she whispered to me one sentence that changed my life forever.

You are moving to Mi-Gook.

I was actually going to Mi-Gook. The place where I can become a robotic engineer, the place where I can become anything I want to be, the place where the angels lived, the place I had always dreamt of going. I was so excited about moving to Mi-Gook that I forgot everything, including school work, my friends, and my aunt and uncle. I forgot that once I move to Mi-Gook, I would be difficult to come back to see my friends and relatives. The only thing that was on my mind was seeing all the wonders Mi-Gook had and seeing angels and becoming a robotic engineer. 'Maybe I can even become a superhero. My mom did say I can become anything!' I thought. The time couldn't go fast enough to satisfy my desire. I counted down the days one by one. 'Five days left until I leave..., four days left until I leave..., three days left... two days left...' Then the day before my departure, it hit me. 'I am going to lose all my friends, my relatives, and the country I became to love for last thirteen years.' Tears came down my eyes as I thought about the things that I was about to lose. Then my uncle came to me and said. "Don't worry Jae Wook, we will always be here waiting for you. You will come back one day. And once the time is right you can come back to us as one of the most successful robotics engineer in the world. So don't cry Jae Wook. Besides we will always be with you in your heart. Always..." Those were the last words I heard from my uncle as I fell asleep dreaming about the future ahead of me.

When I woke up I was in front of the airport in In-Chon Korea. My mom told me soon we are going to get on one of those big airplanes to go to Mi-Gook. She said I needed to stay awake until we get on the plane. I struggled to keep my eyes open but I somehow succeeded. Once I got on the plane, I went back to bed. While I was sleeping on the plane, I dreamt of something. Something I couldn't quite explain at the time. I saw random people talking in some language I couldn't understand. It looked like group of angels talking. But there was one person

who was not like the others. For some reason he was different, unique in some way I couldn't understand. I tried to get a closer look but my mom suddenly woke me up. When I opened my eyes it was dark; I couldn't see where I was. Then I heard my mom say, "Welcome to your new home Jae Wook." I was finally here. I was finally in Mi-Gook.

Mi-Gook was unbelievable. This place was so big compared to Korea. I had my own room that was size of our old living room in Korea! There were movies theaters, shopping malls, and public parks five minutes away! And it was just like my mom said; people living in Mi-Gook were angels without wings. They were white like snow and kind like angels from heaven. I couldn't believe I actually made it. It was like a dream come true.

Days and weeks past by and from no where came the first day of school. Yes, Mi-Gook had school. It was disappointing when I found out that I still had to go to school but I was excited because it was chance for me to meet new people. I got on this big yellow car that took all the students to school, and arrived at Sunshine elementary school. My mom said I had to start in 6th grade because I didn't finish 6th grade in Korea. When I got into my class, I was clueless as to what to do. I needed help and I was sure my classmates would help me, just like other angels who lived in Mi-Gook would. However, my classmates were completely different. Instead of being kind like an angel, they didn't help me. In fact, they treated me like a mentally challenged kid because I couldn't speak their language. When I wanted to join in outdoor activities during lunch, they pushed me and knocked me down to the ground and said, "Go home you don't belong here!" I knew there had to be a misunderstanding so I decided to wait patiently. However, even after couple months had passed, nothing had changed. In fact, the situation became worse: kids would come to me and punched me for no reason and told the teachers that I started the fight. I couldn't understand why I was being treated this way. I thought Mi-Gook was a place

where only the angels lived. I thought it was a place where there was no discrimination. I had to find out what I was doing wrong. I had to fix it.

After some observation, I came to a conclusion that it was because I couldn't communicate with my classmates. Therefore, for months and months, I studied the language that people in Mi-Gook spoke and understood. Everyday, I locked myself in my room with books studying the language I have never heard in my entire life trying to understand what my classmates were saying to me. I even had tutors who came late at night teaching me how to communicate in Mi-Gook. Some days I didn't even sleep because I did not want to waste anytime. Sometimes I slept so little that my nose started bleeding. At times I wanted to give up. At times I wanted to go back to Korea. However, I kept trying and I slowly made progress. Soon, I was involved in less "fights" and I even made couple friends who helped me learn to communicate. By the end of 6th grade, I was able to fluently communicate with my classmates and teachers. At times it felt like I belong in Mi-Gook, like I had been living in Mi-Gook all my life, like I fit in. I was finally home.

Mi-Gook is a place filled with dreams, filled with hope, and filled with possibilities. Mi-Gook almost made me quit, almost made me go back to Korea, almost made me want to jump off a cliff. Knowing that Mi-Gook is filled with dreams, hope, and possibilities, I pushed myself to succeed. And after few years, I was able to finally understand who that person was in my dream I had on the airplane. It was me. I was the one speaking to the "angels" and socializing with them. I was the one that was different, unique. I understand now what this all means. I didn't come to Mi-Gook to become a robotic engineer. I came to Mi-Gook to fill it with hope, dreams, and possibilities with my unforgettable experience.

Mi-Gook is a word that changed my life. Mi-Gook is a world that gave me my new home. Mi-Gook is where I belong. Mi-Gook is the United States of America.