

Education in My Life

Revised selection – original text by Anonymous, Coon Rapids
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Photo courtesy of Jewish Vocational Service

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What might this story be about?
- When you read the title, what thoughts come to mind?

Definitions:

- Affect – to do something to
- Communicate – to get and/or give information
- Neighbor – a person who lives nearby
- Encourage – to help or give hope to
- Increase – to grow larger in size

Reading

16 When I came to the U.S., I did not speak English. This affected my life in
30 many ways. One of the biggest ways was that I couldn't communicate with people.
I couldn't ask questions. I couldn't read the signs in stores.

41 My husband could speak and read some English. I couldn't go anywhere
53 without him. This made life very hard.

60 I needed to learn English. I tried to learn it by myself by watching TV at
76 home, but that was not good enough. I needed more. My neighbor told me about
91 North Metro Adult Education. I am now working to **complete** my high school
104 diploma. It is my dream to finish it.

112 My husband and teachers have helped me a lot. They encourage me in my
126 learning. One of my teachers told me to read thirty minutes each day. That has
141 helped me increase my reading level.

147 After I get my diploma, I hope to move on to a two-year college. I would like
165 to get a degree in child development and get a good job.

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Level 3.0

Understanding

1. In what ways was the author limited by not knowing English? (List at least three ways.)

2. What does the word **complete** mean? _____

3. Where does the author go to school? _____

4. Who told her about that school? _____

5. What has helped her reading? Why do you think that has helped? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about your own education: What have you done? What are you doing?
What do you hope to do?
