Education in My Life
Revised selection – original text by Anonymous, Coon Rapids
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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

When I came to the U.S., I did not speak English. This affected my life in 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. My husband could speak and read some English. I couldn’t go anywhere without him. This made life very hard. I needed to learn English. I tried to learn it by myself by watching TV at home, but that was not good enough. I needed more. My neighbor told me about North Metro Adult Education. I am now working to complete my high school diploma. It is my dream to finish it.

My husband and teachers have helped me a lot. They encourage me in my learning. One of my teachers told me to read thirty minutes each day. That has helped me increase my reading level. After I get my diploma, I hope to move on to a two-year college. I would like to get a degree in child development and get a good job.

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?