

# SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center

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## “Never Give Up!” Student Writers Explore Perseverance



In life we have the opportunity to do several things, and we have the chance to make our dreams a reality. Sometimes we feel that some things are impossible to achieve. With this, we have two ways to react: first, forget our dream or second, persevere and realize this dream. Of course, you should never give up.

Every human has the capacity and intelligence to do the work that they like. Every person has different qualities; we are unique and irreplaceable. We can't all do the same kind of work, and we can't all do the work in the same amount of time as others. We have to recognize our own capabilities and qualities. If we do that, we can realize our dreams.

Then, every day you must try towards your goals, but if you have difficulties, you have to be happy because it is an opportunity to explore qualities that you haven't ever seen before. You shouldn't be afraid and don't stop believing in yourself. Therefore, be courageous, and say to yourself, "I can, I want and I will do it."

In conclusion, you should never give up when somebody tells you that you can't do it. In contrast, you should show them that everything is possible and you will do it because you are intelligent. Maybe it will be hard, but not impossible.

**Enrique Cruz Bautista Mexico** (Photo: Diana Gomez reaches the mountain top.)

### ***The Ups and Downs of Life***

Life is composed of many difficulties. Difficulties are not overcome just once. You can win today, and fail the next day. This is the life style. If you want to reach your target, don't give up. Do you remember your first step you took to walk when you

were a baby? To walk correctly, the baby makes many efforts although there are difficulties he encounters, but then the baby learns to walk! That is an illustration for "Never Give up." Our life is made with ups and downs. Each time you fail, learn about your failure, fix it and go ahead. Never accept that this obstacle becomes the blocking point of your life. Break it! **Didier Kakule, Democratic Republic of Congo**

Never give up is what we should tell ourselves if we want to be motivated and health. When I graduated from the university I was hopeless because of my major. It was not that great. My major was in archives, and people told me that it is impossible to get a job and that made me depressed. My beloved mom told me to not give up and go find a job, so I listened to her. I started looking for jobs for the first year, but I could not find one. I told my mom, "I've been searching for jobs for two years. Do you think it is possible to find one?" She said, "Don't give up, son." I said I would do my best. One day when I was sleeping, I heard my phone ringing. I answered the call and it was from someone that works in the Saudi Fund and Development. They said, "We accept you in our company." I was happy and when I told my mom about it, she was so happy. Now I have been working with the Saudi Fund Development for three years. **Omar AISHabibi, Saudi Arabia**

## **Perseverance across Cultures**

*"Fall seven times. Stand up eight."* Japanese Proverb

*"God is with those who persevere."* Koran

*If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.* ~ Buddhist Saying

*If you are determined — just do it!* ~ Italian Proverb

*Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* ~ Bible

*Be resolved and the thing is done.* ~ Chinese Proverb



# People We Admire



## Mother Theresa of Calcutta

I admire Mother Theresa and her qualities. First, she was very generous especially with the most needy. She taught several examples about generosity. For instance, she gave all her life to God, and she lived for the most needy. In addition, she learned many things about nursing because she thought it was the best way to help people. In our time, she has been the best example of generosity.

Second, she was very friendly. She loved her sisters from her congregation. For that reason, she was always like a mother for her sisters, sweet and patient. Furthermore, she had friends who were important people: John Paul II and Princess Diana. They appreciated her because she was humble.

Lastly, she was a spiritual person. In the morning, the first thing she would do was pray for one hour. By doing this, God blessed her job. At the same time, she said, "If I don't recognize Christ in the poor, my prayers are empty." In conclusion, I admire her because I learned and took many things from her for my life, especially for my vocation. Like her, I pray every day, and I try to show compassion to others. **Enrique Cruz Batista, Mexico**

## My Giving Father

My father loves to give gifts. When I finished high school, my father gave me a car to mark my admission to the university as well as remember the moment I received the car. I was very happy, and I told my friends that my father gave me a new car, and I told them on this occasion that I will prepare a dinner for them in any restaurant. They understood. We actually went to a restaurant and had dinner, and my friends made me happy on this occasion.

Also, on my wedding day, my father also gave me a car for this occasion. My father always likes to make us very happy. Also, when my wife was pregnant, my father always liked to bring a gift for her. My father loves a close-knit family.

In addition, he always said gifts between you keep the love between you, and you always think about each other. My father is very keen to communicate with us always and asked about us because my wife and I are in America. He contacts us every week and asks us about our studies and motivates us and waits for our return as soon as possible. I think my father will surprise us with a very nice gift because my father knows I love getting a new car.

In conclusion, I am very proud of my father because he always brings joy and pleasure to my heart. I hope I can be like my father. **Khamis Alfahmi (Saudi Arabia)**

## My Sister

My sister is our second mother. She loves her brother and sister. She is kind and helps us if we need anything. Without any goals, she wishes the best for us. She is the one that gives happiness at home. If I have a problem, she gives a solution and helps me. We love our older sister. I hope she is happy. **Nora Abdullah, Saudi Arabia**

## My Father

It is nice to talk about the best person in your life because everyone is curious to know about your life. I will now speak about my father. My father is the best person in my life.

First, without my father I wouldn't be in this life. Secondly, my father considers everything in my life. Without my father, I would have a difficult life. In fact, my father has passed away. Before he died, my bed was at the side of his bed, and I slept and woke up with him. I cooked breakfast and milk for my father. In the morning, I went out with him in the car.

Also, I benefited a lot from my father. My father was my school. He taught me to take care of myself. He came into this world and left. This is my view.

The most important is I did everything for him. I cooked lunch, and in the afternoon, I brought milk to my father because my father loves milk a lot. At night I brought him the dinner. I was doing anything he needed, but now he is gone and he died. In the end, I am very sad, but we will all die. I have a lot to say about my father, but I am satisfied with this because I am sad. I hope that you like my words and thank you for reading my words. **Khalifa Alobaidy, Qatar**



## My Favorite Gift

My favorite gift is mechanical pen. It was a big gift from my father. When I received it, I didn't like it, but now, I understand what he wanted me to do. When I look at the pen, it makes me braver and I remember to try hard to do my best. In the exam of university, I thought I couldn't pass the test, but I saw the pen. It gave me more power to do the test, and I passed. The pen is so useful for me, and it can make me stay strong in danger.

I love the pen so much, and I always keep it with me. It is so important to me because it was from my father.

**Tam Huynh Vietnam**

## English Nightmare

English is the universal language that must be learned if one is to pursue a lucrative job as well as travel opportunities. Working in SFD (Saudi Fund of Development) I had to read different documents in English. Learning English is challenging as there are so many exceptions to the rules. Although it was a nightmare to learn, I pursued it, and I am now at SILC, and learning the academic English language. Every day my language is improving because I have supportive teachers, and I am learning many aspects of language from them. **Meshal AlSadun, Saudi Arabia**

## ***Should Couples Wait to Have Children? That Is the Question***



### **Letter for the Millennial Generation**

When my friend, Ahmed was 25 years old, his wife had twins, and he was still studying at the university. He says that two kids are nice for him at this age because he still has enough energy to play with and work for them. Many millennials believe that since Ahmed just started working at an entry level position, he shouldn't have had children already. Even though he doesn't have a lot of money, he is happy with his kids.

The first reason why couples shouldn't wait to have children is because it is difficult to know when you have enough money for a child. Life is expensive. Today it is expensive to buy what you want. We will have to work hard to find a job or earn money. It is not easy to get married today; how about having kids early? However, everything changed in my mind when I heard the news

from an American friend. He has a good job with a nice salary. He works a lot to improve his life and save money, but he spends it all on rent, and it doesn't make him happy. He told me "I had been working for nothing; just to live. I wish I had kids to give my life sunshine and laughter."

Another reason why couples should not wait to have children is that life has changes. People don't realize that kids can change their parents' behavior because they have a responsibility by law. Moreover, it is a good idea to have them when the couples are young and they can watch their children grow up. For a brighter future, it is a success when parents get older with an adult son to help them in life.

Maybe others say that it is hard to have kids without planning. However, they are wrong because life takes much more than what we think. For a normal person to build himself strong in life usually takes a long time. Moreover, we should realize the concepts of love, marriage, and babies. For many of us, income inequality is real. Ironically, many people who have had a comfortable upbringing and more family support still are strapped for cash.

For these reasons, you should have children even if you are a little worried about the money. When dating someone there is a natural progression. As the saying goes, first comes love, then comes marriage, then comes a discussion about having a baby, finally, I hope you can put the baby in the baby carriage. **Yazeed Althemairy, Saudi Arabia**

### **Next Step: Having Children**

Besides love, having kids is the greatest purpose why couples are together. The happiness of life is watching children as they chase each other for the purpose of playing. That is a dream for many couples who are insanely in love. The most stressing obligation for a male and female is the suitable budget to have and raise these beautiful flowers. Although some might disagree, the couple should wait until they have a decent income before they have kids, for the reasons of education and well-being.

First of all, couples should worry about their children's education. Having a suitable budget can provide a wonderful educational future for young adults. However, the two adults should draw up a future plan for their children, as education is the most important component that must be fulfilled. In order to achieve this element, the new parents should have a great budget so that their children do not lack any educational needs. Failing to make a prior financial plan that without a slight doubt will lead to unfortunate education for kids.

Another reason is to aid the children's health financially. Being capable financially is for the children's well-being. Undoubtedly, children deserve tremendous health whether it is physically or mentally. In order to achieve this, parents have to have an appropriate budget to provide the medical care for their kids. However, convincing both the wife and the husband that it is better for them not to rush into conceiving is critical so that they do not regret it someday in the future. Children need considerable and costly care, the most crucial of which is health care.

Opponents argue that couples do not need to be prepared financially in order to have kids because all the child really needs in order to be happy is love. However, these people are not aware of the cost of raising a family today. In order to raise kids couples need to provide the basic necessities and these requirements are not free. Parents should give a little thought about their children's self-confidence, as it may be damaged by discovering that those of their age have more money than they do. How would their confidence be impacted? They might experience low self-esteem.

Here is a strong piece of advice to those who want to have kids. Inspect your financial capabilities to see whether you can make your own kids rejoice. If couples think about the upcoming children more than themselves, they will make financial plans before having them. **Abdulaziz Alanazi, Saudi Arabia**

# The Courage to Continue

by Carla Real, Mexico

“Success is not Final, Failure is not Fatal; It is The Courage to Continue that Counts.” Winston Churchill

Who has fallen and does not know what to do? Falling down and then getting up is not easy. Many people, even I, do not understand why life is so hard. My life has had many setbacks, but I'm still alive. Alive? Do you wonder why I am alive? Having perseverance has helped me to continue to live my life to the fullest, despite my challenges.

I was born completely deaf, so for many years, I could not get involved with society and my family. I was living in isolation; it was a silent and dark experience. I only listened to the silence, as silent as the grave that turned off the real world. I did not react to any sounds. I was different from others. My parents did not know about my deafness until I was five years old. For five years, I was in slow motion. I did not speak! The doctors told my parents that I probably was not going to be able to speak, listen and much less study at school, but the doctors were wrong!

Finally, the day came when my world and my eyes were opened. It was when I got my first hearing aid. The doctor put two strange devices on my ears that looked like the radios. I started to hear some sounds in my right ear only, and my astonished eyes opened as if it were the end of a tunnel. For every noise, I exclaimed, “Oh! Aww! or babbled some sound. I still didn't know how to speak, but my joy at knowing that there were sounds outside and inside of the office was so great. My mother spoke to me with a motherly tone, and at the same time the doctor laughed with joy! Wow! I was skeptical and couldn't quite believe it. Nobody can imagine the sensation that a deaf person has when hearing a sound for the first time. It is indescribable.

However, fighting to integrate into society was not easy. I suffered from a lot of bullying and discrimination because of my deafness. Many schools do not accept people with different abilities due to ignorance or not having the necessary resources, but my parents convinced the principal of a school to accept me. I was very persistent, full of grit and determination to reach to the high level of education, like a bachelor's and master's degree, without any additional help. These were very hard years for me. I spent 14 years in language therapy as an extra activity outside of school. Every day I needed to practice speaking each word correctly; every day I needed to learn each word.

I studied constantly for many years to achieve my goals to study at a university. With each setback or fall, I got up; I had perseverance in the face of the obstacles in my life. I studied elementary, middle and high school in a traditional school, before I earned a degree in Biology at the most prestigious university in Mexico and a Master's degree in Genetic Science. Nothing could stop me! I also had the courage to face many health situations. In 2003 when I was 12 years old, I was diagnosed with diabetes. I lost the function of my kidneys until my mom donated a kidney to me. However, in 2009 my body rejected that kidney due to medical negligence. I was defeated, depressed and hopeless. After this loss, I was in hemodialysis treatment for four hours a day, three times per week for ten years, waiting for another kidney. Finally, I got a new kidney one and half years ago. It was amazing! Nothing could stop me! An internal force within me drove to be a better person, and to continue living life to the fullest. I knew no matter what happened, I would achieve all my goals because there are no limits. Many times, I was about to die due to my bad health condition and my depression, but with determination and desire, I managed to move ahead.

Being deaf and living with certain health conditions has helped me to see the positive side of my limitations and overcome the challenges with perseverance. My perseverance gave me the opportunity to face several adversities and that is why I am who I am now. Nothing is impossible; therefore, everything is possible if you focus on your goal. Now many people believe in me and respect me. I feel very proud of who I am and I believe in myself. My mission at this moment is to teach people that there is nothing that can stop you from reaching your goals, even if you are disabled. Never give up, even if others tell you otherwise.

Being perseverant and never accepting failure in any circumstance is important because anything is possible in this life. Life is about learning and teaching. Our mission in this life should be to contribute something to people; it could be a small or large thing. Therefore, perseverance is the quality of those who continue to try to achieve something despite difficulties or discouragement.

(Photo: Former student Dawa Sange Sherpa, a Mt. Everest mountain guide, celebrates his successful recovery. He was in Colorado for amputation of his fingers, which were severely frostbitten while he was working with a climber who reportedly refused to turn back in bad weather.)

