

# SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

October 8, 2010

## Simple and Beautiful

### **Desert Is Favorite Place to Camp... by Saleh Al-Amer, Saudi Arabia**



The desert is my favorite place because life there makes me in a good mood. Everything is simple and beautiful. If I sleep in the desert, I like to wake up very early because I want to see a beautiful picture when the sun is rising.

There are different kinds of wood that my friends and I collect to burn and cook our food and coffee. We enjoy eating while we look at a wonderful view. Yellow sand and different shapes of dunes show us how beautiful nature is. We breathe fresh air in the desert.

In the Spring season, some places in the Saudi desert are very beautiful. The land becomes green and the weather is very cool. Sometimes there are colored flowers growing in the oases. They have a beautiful smell. Some valleys fill with

rain water and we can hear the water's sounds. At night, everything is quiet. We sit around the fire to warm us and enjoy talking. I look at the stars when the sky is clear. It is a great picture. I like to camp in the desert and enjoy seeing all these things.

### **Big Cities, Big Opportunities...by Alice Villacorta, El Salvador**

There are a large number of people who prefer life in large cities, but on the other hand, there are other people who prefer small towns. I grew up in the capital of my country, El Salvador, but I spent the summers with my grandparents in their home in a small town. After spending most of my life in large metropolitan cities, I can say without reservation that I prefer the large cities. Large cities are better places to live than small towns because of entertainment, medical care, and education.

Entertainment is a really good reason to live in a large city because it is easily accessible. People can find zoos, theaters, malls, restaurants, museums, night clubs, and other attractions that in the small towns are hardly available. For instance, if you want to go shopping, it is more convenient, and there is a variety of shops in the big city, but in the village you cannot find shopping malls. The city is an entertainment wonderland. Moreover, if you feel bored, you can find quite a few entertainment places, while in a small town there aren't any. From my point of view, I think entertainment cannot have any comparison between large cities and small towns. For this reason, in large cities you have a large number of interesting and fun options.

One of the most important reasons why life in large cities is better is because of medical care. In a large city, you can find several hospitals and pharmacies. In contrast, in rural areas, if you are really sick, it's difficult to get advanced medical care. You have only a few choices or maybe you do not have any choice, and it can be a couple of hours driving by car or a helicopter ride because the only hospital is really far away.

Furthermore, there are plenty of modern, medical services and equipment in the large cities, but in the village it is difficult to these services. For instance, in the country side when someone has a really serious problem or a need for surgery, this person must go to a hospital in the city. Availability of all levels of education is one great reason for people to live in a large city. Indeed the city has many schools and different ways of learning. For instance, large cities have both public and private schools.

Additionally, schools in large cities have many ways to explain lessons. For example, teachers can explain lessons by computer or by projects, so the students can have better explanations about the lessons and, in effect, a better preparation for going to university. On the other hand, small towns have public schools and teachers do not have as many skills to educate the students. In small towns, whether you like it or not, (cont. p.2)

you have no choice of a school or university because there are so few schools. However, in the big city you have plenty of choices.

To sum up, I believe when the city is bigger, the opportunities are bigger, too. I have lived in large cities all my life, and I can conclude that this is the best choice to have a good life. In the future, I would like to live in a big city, too, because I want to continue to have fun entertainment, great medical care, and a higher level of education.

## *Level One Writes*

**My School** School is my favorite place. There are a lot of students. There are four floors and many class rooms and bath rooms. It has many lights, doors and windows. In my school, there are many chairs, white boards, and desks. In the library, I see many students studying. I notice many women working in the Starbucks coffee shop and cafeteria. There are many 'Saudi students. There are many cars parking. There are students taking a break between classes. After three hours of classes, they are going to a restaurant or sitting or studying. After this break, they are going back to classes. I love my school. **Nawras AlShabaan, Saudi Arabia**

**My Best Day Ever** My best weekend day ever was last Saturday. I woke up early in the morning, and I met my friend in a restaurant. We ate breakfast. After that, we went to Six Flags. It was fun and enjoyable. For example, we were laughing, joking and eating ice cream. Third, my friend and I had a perfect day. Finally, I will never forget that day because I spent a great time with my best friend. I hope this day will come again. **Ahood Eissa, Saudi Arabia**

**My Teacher, Jessie** Thank You for teaching me level one. You are a good teacher. I like your class. I like your guitar and your singing. We appreciate the picnic and your hard work. I have a good time with you. **Fahad AlFalahi, United Arab Emirates**

**My Past That Happened** Four years ago, I went to the desert and I was lost for three days because my car broke down. I walked for a full day waiting for any person to help me. Finally an old man came and drove me to my house. **Mohammed Aldhuwayhi, Saudi Arabia**

**My Last Weekend** I will always remember what happened last Sunday. Just like any other Sunday, my best friend went for a motorcycle ride. But this time something went wrong. When E.B. rode his motorcycle, he turned and suddenly crashed. The motorcycle landed on his leg and broke it in two pieces. E.V. went to the hospital and the doctor took an x-ray to check if his leg was broken. After the x-ray, the doctor bandaged his leg. Finally, I was happy that E.B. only lost his motorcycle but not his life. **Mohammed AlDulaijan, Saudi Arabia**

### **My First Camping Trip...by Molly Wu, China**

Camping was a very new experience for me. I went on my first camping trip two weeks ago with my husband. We went to a campground south of Estes Park. There was blue sky, clean air, a wonderful day. We brought many things with us, including our dog. I was very excited to go camping.

We arrived at the park about 2:00 p.m. We started to take all the things out of the car, and we wanted to start a fire in the fire pit, but we forgot something very important, matches and wood. Then we collected pine cones and pine needles. It was very fun for us. We started the fire and it kept us warm in the evening.

We slept in the tent with our dog beside my husband's feet. That night was a very fun time for me. I waited for the stars to come out at night, but after a few minutes it was lightly raining. It was a wonderful dream in Estes Park.

In the morning, my husband started the fire again, and I woke up to the birds singing. He cooked breakfast, made coffee, and spent two hours doing it. It was a fun and enjoyable time for me. I loved my first camping trip in the U.S.A.

### **My Brother's Influence on My Life...by Fares Al-Yami, Saudi Arabia**

Somebody who has changed and affected my life is my brother. My life has changed for the best because my brother always makes big efforts to help me be a successful person in many ways, such as encouraging me to get a good education, to work hard, and to be motivated.

First of all, education is one of the core things in my life. It is important to choose a good education. Also, most people want to complete their education in the best universities in the world. For that reason, they travel to other countries to get what they want. To illustrate, when my government allowed me to continue my education, I chose the U.S. because my brother advised me to study here. In addition to that, he told me that American English has a better accent than other countries and a good culture. I really felt comfortable when I chose to complete my education here.

A second way my brother influenced me is this belief in hard work and respect for time. My brother always advises me to work. He says, "If you want to get a higher advantage, you must work hard." (Cont. p. 3) In addition, I always follow up on what he says. For instance, I always go to my school, study hard, and do all my homework. Thus, if anyone wants to get more advantages in life, they must work hard.

A third way he affected me is by telling me that everyone has to know his/her goal. Also, they have to struggle to achieve their purpose. For example, I have felt ambivalent when I have not achieved my target, but I have learned how to struggle to get what I want. I have had to apply for many things in my life, such as getting a big reward from France Human Rights, and I got the best degree when I was in my college. However, I am looking to achieve more in my life in America.

To sum up, my brother is the role model in my life. Also, if you want to follow your role model, you should act and do whatever the role model has done. In my opinion, hard work and struggle are the best ways to success.

## LEVEL TWO WRITES: *EXPERIENCES WE DON'T WANT TO REPEAT*

**A terrible experience** happened to my father two years ago. My father felt a pain in his abdomen. He also did not like to eat any food, just drink water. One evening he was very sick. At that time, my father and I went to the hospital. After that, the doctor told him about the sickness, and he gave my father some medicine. After three days, my father still could not eat or drink. The next day, we went to the emergency room in the military hospital because it has a good staff of doctors. One hour later, the doctor came and asked my father some questions. After that, he saw the x-rays and he knew what the problem was. After a few minutes, he told me that my father had colon cancer.

My father had surgery and the doctor removed all of his colon. Then my father left the hospital and went to another hospital in Riyadh for chemotherapy. The nurses took his height and weight and made a bioanalysis, and they gave my father a new appointment. After one week, we went to the hospital where they gave him chemotherapy. The doctor told my father that he had to have chemotherapy every four weeks. After six months, he had finished all appointments, but during the duration of treatment his hands and feet became black. Later, my father was in good health, and he has appointments every three months. Now I feel my father is better than in the past, and he has good health, and I learned a lot about cancer. **Saad Al-Quhtani, Saudi Arabia**

**Despite the beauty of the sea**, for me it is a source of terror and fear. It gives me a deep feeling of ambiguity and suffocation. The waves slam in defiance of beaches and sand. I cannot bear to think that I might fall into it and struggle to catch my breath. I hate the taste of the water. It is very salty and strange. The sea is very large and deep, and it has different kinds of fish. Some of these are wild fish, like sharks. There is no way to go into the sea except through the water. If there is a strong wind at this time, you will see the waves going up and down faster. This, in itself, is death for me. I feel nausea and dizziness strikes me when I am at the sea. **Aesha Al-Dosari, Saudi Arabia (Cont. p. 4)**

**The worst place in my childhood** was my school building because I felt it was a jail for me. The school was very big with long dormitories, each one with 40 small old beds. Besides the bathrooms, there were lockers, one for each student. The school had an average of 400 young women. I studied for six years. I don't like to remember the bell in the morning at 5 o'clock, the shower with cold water. The voice of the person who took care of us always shouted, "Get up!"

Besides studying, we had to work in the yards, in the big kitchen, washing a lot of dishes. Cleaning the big school was work that was really heavy. The school was supported by the government. Maybe it was my only way to study. I never was happy there and I would never like to come back. The worst years of my life were living in that school building because my dreams in my youth were to live free. **Maria de la Luz Rodriguez, Mexico**

**I love the city center** in my country, but it has too much pollution in the streets. The center of the city has a lot of restaurants, bars, clubs, companies, and old cars, do everyday I smell bad air because I live and study there. People in my country don't understand the government because the center had only a few trees, but the government destroyed these trees. I remember three years ago the city had a lot of trees and people went there to relax, read a book or reflect on life. The government destroyed this for construction of buildings. If my city continues like this maybe people will die because they have poor air. My government has to reflect on these ideas. **Ariclenes Baptista, Angola.**

### *Online Resources and the Quality of Student Writing*

*by Husain Alfagee, Libya*

Many people in educational fields do not hide their fears about the bad effects of online resources on the quality of student writing. Dr. Rothenberg, a professor of philosophy at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, believes that the Web destroys the quality of students' research papers. I believe online resources can destroy the quality of these papers only if these resources are not from trusted Website, the students do not know evaluation tools, and teachers do not encourage students to use certain criteria for their research.

There is no doubt that using the Internet has huge benefits for students. They use it for school registration, distance learning, collecting information for their research papers, etc. It is an easily helpful tool for students, but many teachers are very worried about online resources. "I wish that the university's computer system would crash for a day, so I could encourage them to go outside, sit under a tree, and read a really good book—from start to finish" (Rothenberg 68). In fact, there are a lot of extremely useful resources on the Internet. For instance, many educational institutions have excellent databases where their students can find books, newspapers, magazines, journals, theses, and more on the Web, and the ACC library is good example for that. In addition, these resources are usually restricted only for teachers, students, and those in related fields. Similarly, educational institutions, governments and international organizations have completely trusted websites because they are not for commercial purposes. I have found very useful reports about nuclear tests for my research (Cont. p. 4)

## Online Resources (Cont. from p. 3)

about nuclear energy on the United Nations website. It contained extensive, important information which is hardly found anywhere else. Resources like these not only reinforce the quality of students' papers but also increase their reliability.

The most important thing that students are concerned about is their grades. Since students know that their research papers will be evaluated according to specific tools, they will pay more attention to matching these tools. Sources, information, and work citation should take the maximum part of research paper evaluation. Indeed, students will use the best resources and the most accurate information to convince the person evaluating their research papers. "Having students include several bound books as sources for their research papers is important" (Jaeger). Moreover, the evaluators can go back to check those resources and information using work citation, and this strategy will reduce the possibility of having resources that may destroy students' papers.



Teachers have a magic key that restrains students from using resources that may badly affect their papers. If teachers completely restrict their students to using only certain criteria for their papers, like peer-reviewed articles, scholarly journals, printed books, and others, they will be sure that the quality of their students' papers is highly accepted. "One important element to periodical databases requirements is to accept only articles from peer-reviewed journals. Each of our journal database has a feature where searching can be restricted only to these quality journals" (Jaeger). This term, before we started our research papers, our teacher Andy gave us guidelines that should be followed during our research. As a result of these requirements, we use neither random only resources nor resources that are not related to the previous category. Furthermore, primary review of our collected information by our teacher confirmed that those resources would not destroy the quality of our papers.

In conclusion, these days we should not be worried because most educational institutions and teaching staff members are intelligent enough to guide their students in the perfect usage of the Internet and the resources on it.

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Works Cited: Rothenberg, David. "American Values and Assumption," *New Directions: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Peter S. Grandner, Cambridge University Press, 2005. Print. and Jaeger, Jo9hn. "Do Online Resources Destroy Student Research Papers? Online posting. July 11, 2001. *The Compass*. Web. Sep21, 2010.

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## Teenagers and Decision Making...by *Mohamed Khalifa, Libya*

Should parents allow teenagers to make their own decisions? There are many parents who don't like to let their teenagers make any decisions, but others believe that teens should make decisions on their own. Today there are more things changing in teenagers' lives than in the past. Many teens have a happy life with their parents because they trust them. I agree with the idea that parents should be responsible for their teens' decision making because teens' lack the experience, responsible behavior, and wisdom to make good decision.

Although some parents prefer to let teens get experience in decision making by experimenting and being independent, others like to teach teens what is right and what is wrong. Teens want to get expertise in decision making from everywhere because sometimes they have little or no experience with life. For the above reason, teens are at risk because each place has good people and bad people. Some people want to teach teens good things, but others want to teach them bad things. According to the BBC News, teens can't know which expertise is good and what is bad until they arrive at age 27. That is why their parents' expertise is better than most. Because they love their kids, parents must give their expertise to teens, instead of their children getting bad ideas from other people.

Secondly, the reason for teens' irresponsible behavior is that some parents are allowing them to do what they want. Parents don't like to express their true feelings because they think they are being kind to their children. They don't want to give them lessons on how to behave responsibly and how to make good choices. Due to this, some teens make decisions about their lives that lead to bad behavior toward themselves and toward other people. Thus, parents should take care of their teens' behavior and help them to learn the right way to act. There are also many parents who put their teens in the best schools that practice humane behavior and kindness.

Thirdly, some parents like to give teens wisdom regarding what they should do and how they should act. This knowledge will help them to avoid dangers, such as drugs. In addition to this, supporters of teenagers say parents should give wisdom to teens because there is nobody like the parents. According to the New York Times newspaper, about 75 to 81 per cent of parents in the world have tried to give their wisdom about life to their children. Smart teens trust good parents more than anyone in the world.

Still, parents should have a valuable role to play in teenagers' lives. Parents must be experts, responsible behavior teachers, and wisdom givers. It is important for teens to get information from their parents because they trust their parents. Granted, many parents today take responsibility for their teens and are changing the way they keep them on correct paths. Wise parents learn to win the hearts of their children and earn the right to influence them. Someone has said, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

**Spring Views is published each nine-week term. Its purpose is to encourage student writers from beginning to advanced levels. Connie Shoemaker, editor**

