

Challenging Something New

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When I was in grade four, I made a huge decision to change an international school after spending two years at Japanese school in Malaysia. My memory is little cloudy about the incident but the reason why I wanted to transfer to international school was because of the lady that helped me find my parents when I was lost in a shopping mall by myself. Although I wasn't able to understand what she was saying, she tried to find my parents as if I would never be able to meet them again. Eventually, she found my parents and they appreciated her and cried like babies. Because of this incident, I wanted to be able to help someone who is need of help, like the lady who helped me find my parents. Of course I felt trepidation and was worried about changing schools because I only knew few basic words in English like "hello" and "thank you". When I started, I didn't know what the teachers or my classmates were talking about so I was always the last one to understand and finish a task in class. I sometimes had to stay up until 3 a.m to finish my homework with my parents, usually in tears. I had no one to eat lunch with. I had no friends. One of my classmate hated me so much that she said, "I don't like Mako!", every single day in the voice that I could literally hear and she didn't even invite me to her birthday party. I was heartbroken every single day and grade four was such a dreadful and miserable year for me. I really wanted to quit school and just give up on challenging something new. But I didn't, because I thought that I would regret quitting school in the future.

When I was in grade five, a girl transferred to our school and saved my school life. She lit up my life with her presence. She talked to me and she made me laugh and smile every single day. She didn't care what the others said about me, she never betrayed me and she was my first friend that I made in that school. She was so benevolent that even if there were some pauses in our conversation, she didn't mind. She taught me whatever I didn't

understand and she was like a teacher to me. Because of her, most of my classmates stopped talking behind my back and for the first time, I felt that I was able to get used to the school. I made a lot of friends and from then on, I was able to enjoy my school life. I had improved my English so much in a year and was able to get a certification proving how much I had improved.

When I was in grade six and seven, I sometimes had tough times and difficulties that I had to face but because I didn't give up and my best friends supported me, I was able to overcome most of them and I was able to spend two years that I would never be able to forget about. From the tough experience of being left out from the class as if I didn't exist when I was in grade four, I have talked to a lot of new students and included them in our squad so that they will be able to spend amusing school life, just like what a girl did for me.

When I go through my memories, I don't regret my decision to change schools and I am so grateful that I didn't quit halfway. I made amazing friends and I was able to learn not to give up when facing difficulties. I have also learnt an important lesson in my life; to help someone who needs help. This could literally make their day. I am proud of myself for what I did in the three years that I stayed at that school. I would not have participated in this contest if I had quit school halfway because I was shy and I had no confidence in myself but I am thankful for my parents for pushing me to challenge something new and for supporting a nine-year-old through hard times because now, I am a risk-taker who challenges new things.