

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

VOICES

A Publication from the Language and Culture Center



SUPERHERO EDITION

SUMMER 2017

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VOICES – Summer 2017

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From the Director's Desk

by Joy Tesh – Director



I love my job! I love being the director of the Language and Culture Center at the University of Houston! I can't imagine a better place to work. When I interview prospective teachers for our Intensive English Program, I always find a way to say, "I can promise you the best colleagues in the field of English as a Second Language and the best students of English as a Second Language in the entire world." I tell them the truth. I love to come to work every day and to be in the middle of all the intelligence and energy and excitement. Thank you, dear students and friends, for making the LCC an amazing place to work and to study.

At our First Assembly, I promised you that you would learn far more than English at the Language and Culture Center. As you have worked and studied with students from all over the world in LCC classes, you have engaged in intercultural communication, and you have made friends. These friendships will be important to you throughout your lives. I want you to know that, as I see you in the halls of the Roy Cullen Building and walking around on our beautiful campus every day, I realize how fortunate I am to know you and to work with you.

At the beginning of the summer, several members of the LCC leadership and support team attended the NAFSA Conference in Los Angeles, California. *NAFSA: Association of International Educators* is a professional association dedicated to the support of international education. On the NAFSA website (www.nafsa.org), there is a report on the positive impact of international students on campuses in the United States. The report states that international students "**build bridges** between the United States and other countries; **bring global perspectives** into U.S. classrooms and research labs; **support U.S. innovation** through science and engineering coursework, making it possible for U.S. colleges and universities to offer these courses to U.S. students; and **support programming and services on campus for all students.**"

Congratulations as you complete this hot and beautiful summer of study in the Language and Culture Center! You have been engaged in an extraordinary experience as you have worked and studied and laughed and celebrated with your friends and fellow students at the University of Houston. You will never be the same. You will go forward, and as you continue to grow and learn, you will make a real difference in the world.

Your teachers and I thank you for choosing to study with us and for giving us the chance to learn about you, your language, your culture, and your country. We have been enriched by your presence, and we appreciate the positive contribution you have made to our university.

As the unforgettable summer term of 2017 closes, we wish you a safe and productive academic break. Summer classes will end following the closing ceremony on graduation day, August 10. We will miss you, and we want you to know that the LCC office will remain open through August and September as we work with any continuing students who need us and with new students who will be arriving for the fall term. Online registration for the fall term will begin on September 5, 2017.

If you are leaving our program for any reason, we encourage you to stay in touch with us through email lcc@uh.edu or through Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UHLCC/> or through our web site <http://lcc.uh.edu>. We are eager to hear from students who continue their studies at the University of Houston or at another school in the United States or who return to their countries to continue their journey. We invite you to join a great network of former LCC students, now living all over the world.

LCC teachers, counselors, administrators, support staff, and I hope you have had great experiences in our classes and on the University of Houston campus. We wish you the best as you complete the summer term, and we look forward to seeing many of you again as you return in September for the fall term of 2017 in the Language and Culture Center.

LCC SUMMER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Language and Culture Center awards three scholarships each term to returning students who best combine academic excellence and leadership with international awareness and cross-cultural understanding. One scholarship honors Joyce Valdes, founder and first director of the LCC. A second scholarship honors Joseph Davidson, who served as director of the LCC for 22 years before retiring in 2006. A third scholarship honors Brad Powell, who worked for 12 years in many capacities at the LCC, ultimately serving as Program Director of Counseling and Student Services.



NUTTAYA TEPUDOM was awarded the Valdes scholarship. Ms. Tepudom is from Thailand and is studying in level six. This is her third term at the Language and Culture Center. After graduating from the LCC, she ultimately plans to study Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston. She told us that it was an honor to receive the LCC scholarship, and that she always studies English with a passion. She found inspiration from the teachers and staff at the LCC who continually believed in her potential. Nuttaya is thankful for her “warm family” at the LCC.



ARMIDA CAROLINA MORENO DE ESPINOZA was awarded the Davidson scholarship. Ms. Moreno de Espinoza is from Venezuela. This is her second term at the LCC and she is studying in level five. She holds a BS in Business Administration, and upon completing her studies in the intensive English program, she plans to pursue an MBA. Armida shared that she is very grateful for being awarded the Joseph Davidson scholarship. She feels “one step closer to getting her dream education,” and she would like to express gratitude to her teachers and the entire LCC team.



FILIPA COSTA was awarded the Powell scholarship. Ms. Costa is from Angola and is currently studying in level four having been at the LCC for two terms. When she finishes her study of English, she plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Houston. Ms. Costa told us that being awarded an LCC scholarship was a gratifying feeling because that meant all of her efforts here in the US were recognized.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

A conversation between **THONG DANG**

and Dr. Jodi Nelms, *Associate Director*

Over a cup of hot cappuccino at Cougar Grounds, I spoke with Mr. Thong Dang about his thirty-three years as a teacher. The following is a recount of our conversation.

It was an afternoon in 1970 in Saigon and a little boy was hopscotching to a neighborhood grocery store on an errand for his mother. “Box! Table! Door!” he repeated over and over the few words his father had just taught him from English for Today Book One and giggled at their funny sounds. A few days later, when going to school with his friends, he tripped and fell into a puddle.

A young American soldier was walking by and immediately stopped to help him back on his feet. “Thank you!” the boy said. Surprised, the G.I. gave him a chewing-gum and asked, “Are you a student?” “Yes, I am!” the boy replied, loudly and proudly. When the soldier left, his friends rushed to him. “Wow! You speak English!” they praised. But the boy said nothing. There was obvious pride in his face.

The reason so many students return to the Language and Culture Center (LCC) is its outstanding teachers in Teaching English as a Second Language. In each edition of *Voices*, we profile one of our teachers, and this term we have chosen to write about Mr. Thong Dang, who happened to be that little boy of 47 years ago.

After the incident at the puddle, Thong fell in love with English. The following year, his father, whose English proficiency was not beyond Lesson 3 of English for Today Book One, sent him to London School, an English language institute in Saigon. In three years, he had finished all its sixteen levels and started taking college English courses at the Vietnamese-American Association (V.A.A.), another

language school. In 1975, the Vietnam War ended and the V.A.A. closed.

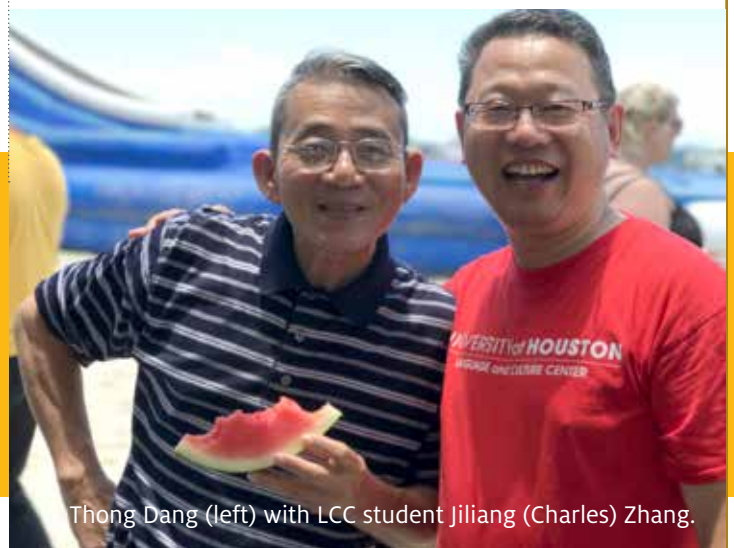
But his passion for English continued. In 1980, after two years in a ship-building factory and one year in the army, Thong was admitted into the General University of Ho Chi Minh City. In 1984, he received his B.A. in English Language and Literature and was immediately recruited to teach at the HCMC Teachers Training College. In 2003, he moved to Houston with his family. Against the advice of his practical-minded relatives, he applied to the M.A. program in Applied English Linguistics at the University of Houston.

Upon graduation, Thong worked at the LCC, teaching mostly grammar and writing. “A really nice guy, and most knowledgeable about the theory, practice, approaches, and methods in language teaching,” recollected retired Jerry Gamel, his mentor in his early days at the center. Greg Urquhart, another fellow teacher, admired his sense of humor and added, “I always tell my students: with Thong, you’re in extremely capable hands. You will improve your grammar and writing.”

As we finished our cappuccino and stood up to leave, I asked Mr. Dang, “Do you have any words of wisdom to share with us?” He smiled, “That’s simple! Just work hard at what you love, live simple, always smile, bear no grudge against anyone, and always look at the world with the innocent eyes of a child.”

“Work hard at what you love, live simple, always smile, bear no grudge against anyone, and always look at the world with the innocent eyes of a child.”

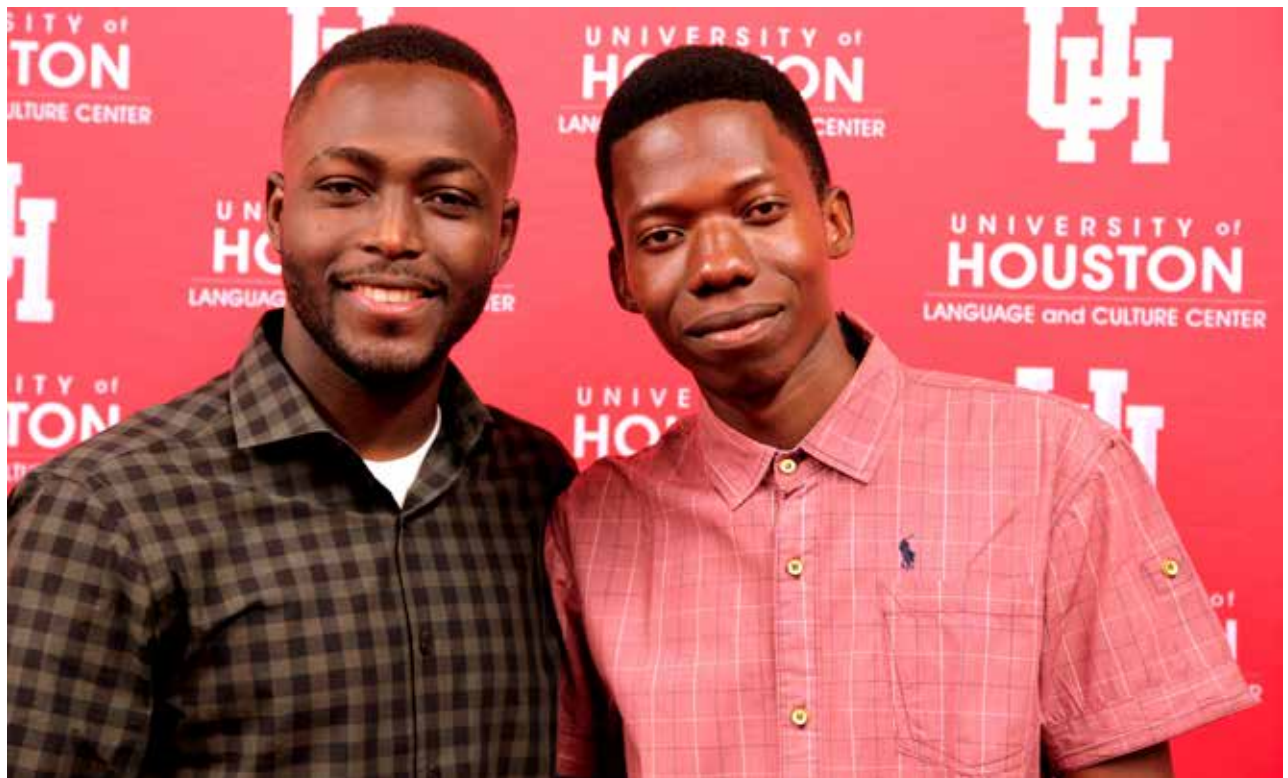
– Thong Dang, July 13, 2017



Thong Dang (left) with LCC student Jiliang (Charles) Zhang.

STUDENT CHECK-IN

Welcome to the LCC



A HERO'S WELCOME

LCC COUNSELORS



Adam Chen –
Program Director of Counseling and Student Services, oversees a full range of advising, counseling, and student services.



Adam plans, supervises, and supports student activities including cultural and recreational events.



Samrach (Sam) Long – *SEVIS Compliance Coordinator, serves as Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) and counsels students on all aspects of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).*

LCC STUDENT COUNCIL

Alida Nakic

LCC Student Council Advisor

The LCC Student Council is an organization led by students from each class and level. These students are chosen by their fellow classmates and have the responsibility of representing them. Each term the Student Council has meetings to help organize and promote both LCC academic and social activities. Student representatives volunteer their time and contribute greatly to encourage LCC student participation. Their constant help, clever suggestions, and innovative ideas help the LCC be a better program.

Thank you, LCC Student Council class representatives, for your contributions this summer 2017 term! You are the true leaders of tomorrow!

“With great power comes great responsibility.” – Spiderman



“Dreams save us. Dreams lift us up and transform us. And on my soul I swear...until my dream of a world where dignity, honor, and justice becomes the reality we all share...I’ll never stop fighting. Ever.”

–Superman



CLASS PICTURES



2A AND 2B



3A AND 3B



3C AND 3D



4A



4B



4C

CLASS PICTURES





STUDENT HEROES

I am a Super Rep

Montaser Abukharshiq

2B – Palestine

There are six levels in the Language and Culture Center, and every level has two classes or more. Because the school has many students, a person cannot meet all the students. Every level has a representative, so I am a Super Amazing Rep for my class. My teachers chose me because they trust, believe in, and love me. Because they love me, they give me a lot of tasks daily. The tasks for Super Amazing Rep are: first, I will go to the Language and Culture Center meetings because I need to know what I will explain to my classmates. Second, I will put information from the meetings on social media for the teachers and absent students. Third, the next day, I will explain the meetings because the students must know the meeting information. Fourth, I will take questions from the students, and after that, I will answer them. Fifth, I will ask my peers if the information was helpful because I want to help my classmates. Also, I want to improve myself as the Super Rep. Finally if you want to become a Super Rep you must have honesty, courage, and a strong desire to help others.

I am a Superhero

Mohammed Alqahtani

2A – Saudi Arabia

I am a superhero called Super Student. I am brave when I am presenting to the class. All students interact with me. I am a great student because I help all the students. I am a hard working student. When I came to the USA, I was afraid of failure, but I challenged myself. I can do it because I am a Super Student. I like to make everyone happy, and I also feel happy. Therefore, I'm Super Student.

Super Mother

Claudia Pamela Villarroel Flores

2A – Chile

A Super Mother has three important roles every day. My first job is mother to three children. I am a role model, honest, and persevering with them. I am firm with my principles. I am honest. I have to be an example to my children. My second job as Super Mother is to be a student at the University of Houston. I study English and perseverance helps me continue day by day. My perseverance allows me to be here studying. My third job as Super Mother is my job in the daycare at the University of Houston. I work after school. This job allows me to have an income to continue studying. In my job, I am friendly. I have the ability to be fearless and versatile dealing day to day with the children. Each day I wake up as a Super Mother with three important jobs that I love.

Super Knowledge Man

Maoyuan Jiao

2B – China

As Super Knowledge Man, I can know everything about the world. I do not need study because I will know everything, and I can teach other people. I can know what no one else knows. I can know everything that is not known now, and I can help the country develop new environmentally friendly energy. I can stop war with all my knowledge. I can use my knowledge to help people peacefully develop technology. I can use my rich knowledge to persuade people to give up war. I will use everything I know to help people be better and help them solve their perplexities.



How I Can Be a Superhero

Jinpeng Jiang

2A – China

To be a superhero, I want to help beggars on the street. I want to give them a home. I want them to live a normal life. They need a superhero to help them. If I am a superhero, I want to help mountain children. I want them to have a wonderful life and let them have food to eat and clothes to wear. I want to get them education like ordinary people. If I am a superhero, I want to help those who are terminally ill. I want to cure them. I hope they can continue to enjoy this wonderful world. I hope they are no longer tortured by the disease. If I was a superhero, the world would be just fine.

Super Brave Student

Chi-Ju Wu

2B – Taiwan

As a courageous superhero, I am a Super Brave Student. There are many things that I must do with my bold superpower. First, this is my first time that I have gone to a different country to learn English. It is an amazing thing. Second, I must try to resolve what happens in the United States. Third, I have to become accustomed to using English communication. In conclusion, I believe that I will become more and more bold. As a Super Brave Student, this study tour can increase my brave power in the United States.

Supermom Malak

Malak Almegren

2B – Saudi Arabia

As an adventurous superhero, I am proudly comfortable with my new important life as a super mom. Since I moved to wonderful Houston, I realized that I am a strong woman. I am a happy wife, a responsible mom, and a motivated student. Every day, I take my handsome six-month-old son to his daycare before I come to my enjoyable LCC classes to learn with my friendly classmates under our supportive and trusted teachers. In the evening, I have a great time with my lovely family. Finally, I am enjoying my new superhero lifestyle and I see myself as a confident woman with many roles.

I'm a Superhero

Nanxing Li

2B – China

I'm a superhero and my superpower is to be invisible. I'm surprised by this superpower because I can do a lot of things to help others. I can use my powers to defend the city from harm. I can also help those who are poor and those who need help not to suffer. I can do something for them and they won't know it is me and will think it is magic. Of course, I can do something evil like robbing a bank or something bad other people can't see. Although I can do evil things, I will not do them because I want to be a messenger of justice and become a hero.

Perfect Hero

Tsung-Han Tan

2B – Taiwan

As a perfect hero, I want to help people all over the world. To start, I can make a lot of food to help those who need help. I can create a new kind of food that is easy to produce in a mass quantity. Next, I want to stop war. I want to use my knowledge to help people live in peace. After that, I want to save the refugees. This means the perfect hero needs to build many large homes for the refugees. Finally, I want to make the world more fun and without violence. I can bring fun to unhappy people. The perfect hero believes kids need to have a fun childhood. As a hero, I can use my skill to help people and make the world better.

Becoming a Hero for Girls

Yuhan Xiang

3A – China

I think that rape is a major school crime in my country because students are too young to choose which way is right and they are not scared of the law. Although I really want to change it, I have never done anything. But now I have some small solutions to change it. First, sex education is very poor in my country, and many parents are too shy to tell their children about it. However, we need to teach students that it is very important. I think that I can set up an account online and then always post true values to tell students what they cannot do. In addition, there are many volunteers who want to publish sex education information. Therefore, I want to donate to help publish this information. Also, some girls are too shy to tell police, so boys do not care about the law because they know that after they do something, girls will not tell anyone. However, I would tell girls not to be scared to tell when they are raped. Maybe when I have free time, I will go to school near my home and tell them this information. In conclusion, I know I am just one person with little power, but I want to bring change for girls in the future.

An Exceptional Hero

Ahmed Guzaiz

2A – Saudi Arabia

Most of us want to be a super hero. I am an extraordinary super hero and I have three different powers. My first power is the ability to stop time to enjoy my life. For example, when I need more time to do my job or my homework and there is not enough time in a day to do this, I am going to stop time for an hour or minutes to finish my work. Also, I can spend a lot of time with my friends and family, or I can sleep for a long time. Therefore, I do not care any more about time. My second power is helping people with their problems or their diseases. For example, I will be gentle with them to solve problems such as poverty and rising prices. Also, I can treat those with difficult diseases like cancer. My last power is to duplicate myself, and that is an amazing thing to do. For example, I can do twice as much work, or I can be in two places in the same time. Finally, I will help people and I wish them peace. This is how I will be a great super hero.

An Everyday Hero for the Environment

Nhan Ho

3B – Vietnam

Nowadays, air pollution is the biggest problem in Vietnam. However, there is a solution. I'm not sure air pollution will be reduced when people go to work by public transport, but it produces less carbon dioxide into the air. When I was an accountant in Vietnam two years ago, my boss promoted going to work by bus. The company would pay back the employees if they had receipts. I was not comfortable when I began to take a bus. I had to change my schedule, so I got up and left my house earlier than I did before. One week later, I was more comfortable. I could save money, time and I felt safer when I went to work by bus. I could pay bills online, have breakfast and relax before I started my work every day. If more people would go to work by bus, we could reduce air pollution by adding less carbon dioxide into the air. In conclusion, we need to change our habits by using public transport. I'm happy to be a hero every day.

An Everyday Hero for Homeless Dogs

Min-Su Huang

3A – Taiwan

Taiwan has some homeless dogs. This is very pitiful. When someone wants a dog in their family, they should not abandon them. Also, they should use a dog leash when they take their dog outdoors. However, I am an everyday hero. When I see a homeless dog, first, I will give it some food because I think it is very hungry. Then I will take the dog to a hospital to check its health. Finally, I will take the dog to a temporary shelter. They will give the dog food and comfortable environment. In conclusion, if someone wants a dog in their family, they can go to temporary shelter to choose a homeless dog. Their dog can give fun to their family.

An Everyday Hero of Motorbike Riders

Ngoc Hien Nguyen

3A – Vietnam

A lot of Vietnamese people do not wear a helmet when they ride a motorbike. That is a big problem in Vietnam. It is very hard to tell them about the danger of not wearing a helmet. However, I could be an everyday hero if I can save their lives. In Vietnam, I have attended a Safe Traffic meeting three times. The meetings were held in the leader's house where everyone can go easily every three months. At the meeting, we collected many accident pictures to tell people about the danger of not wearing a helmet. We told them about their importance in their family. We gave them a question, "What will your family do if you are injured or dead?" Then we gave them a few minutes to think about their answer. Lastly, we introduced some beautiful helmets and wished them to always be safe and happy. In conclusion, I was very happy I could help and give happiness to other families.

An Everyday Hero for Poor Families

Hatem Saleh

3A – Jordan

In my country there are some poor families who need help. These poor families feel alone because of their hard lives. If I were a hero, I would be the person who can make them forget about their suffering. Fortunately, I have the solution for them, and it is to open a charitable center in conjunction with the other families who live in the same village. At that center, we will collect food, clothes and other things that can fulfill their needs. In that way, the people of this village will help and support each other. Moreover, giving people the opportunity to help each other in such a hard situation can bring the poor families together.

An Everyday Hero for the Unemployed

Sandrine Kengne Tenekamte

3A – Cameroon

Unemployment is a huge problem in Cameroon, in particular, for students who graduate with a bachelor's degree. A student must have a good or high grade to get a good or excellent job. But, it is so difficult to obtain a job because some bosses ask to sleep with employees, especially girls. However, the solution for some students is to enter the informal sector. The informal sector is a type of work where we pay little tax and do such things as fixing hair at the salon, calling on the phone, and selling food in the market. For example, the day that I graduated with my bachelor's degree, I was so happy, but I didn't get a job for one year and six months. Every day for two months, I applied for any type of job on the Internet and gave my resume to some companies. Even if I obtained a job as a babysitter, I would do it because I really needed a job to take care of my grandmother and in my mind all I had to do was to go out from the house to earn money to take care of myself. Finally, I could be a good hero when I obtained a job in a communication company because it helped to take care of myself and my family. Sometimes, I helped other people after I obtained a job.

Firefighters in China

Ming (Mingyang) Yu

4A – China

All firefighters are heroes, but American and Chinese firefighters have some differences. In contrast to American firefighters who are only firefighters, in China, they are both firefighters and soldiers. Chinese firefighters have basic training as soldiers, and they have extra fire drills every week. While they are employed by the Ministry of Public Security in China, American firefighters are divided into professional firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Another difference is the career length of the firefighters. In China, almost all of them are twenty to forty years old. On the other hand, in America, firefighting can be a lifelong career, as long as they can pass the assessment.

A Hero on the Bus

Nora (Le Nga) Luu

4A – Vietnam

Since I was new in the United States, I wasn't familiar with the streets of Houston, so I was anxious the first time I had to take the bus. I had been nervous around native English speakers, but my bus driver, Neil, was friendly. One day when I was taking the bus home from school, he started talking to me, and he asked me about my country and talked to me about why I had come here. I was reluctant to talk to him at first because he was a stranger, but he had a kind voice and a kind face, so I felt comfortable. We often see each other when I leave my afternoon class since he has the same schedule every day. After we smile and ask about each other's days, we enjoy talking to each other on the bus. Thanks to him, I'm not afraid anymore, and I don't feel tired, even after a long day of studying. Since he makes me feel safe on the bus, he is my hero, and we are friends now.

My Hero, Ms. Mary

Dia (Thi Hong Yen) Nguyen

4B – Vietnam

After graduating from college in my country, I studied English with a teacher I called "Ms. Mary," who was from New York. She was the first teacher who helped me correct my English mistakes. She taught me how to say the alphabet and how to sound like a native speaker. Outside of class, she became my friend and gave me advice when I had problems. Thanks to Mary's help in English, I could take a chance and make my dream of studying abroad come true. Although I'm in the United States now, and she is still in Vietnam, we stay in touch through email and Facebook. I hope that when she returns to New York from my country, we can meet each other again.

"A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart."

–Hercules



A HERO IN MY EYES

What Causes a Person to Act Heroically

Cecilia Obami

6A – Congo (Brazzaville)

When we think of a hero, we see a person with supernatural powers who can fly, lift whatever, run really fast and help people. Usually this person becomes a hero because he doesn't know what to do with his power, so he decided to help people. But in a real life a hero is someone who cares about others and helps without supernatural powers. This person helps and cares for others because he just feels like helping or decides to care and help people with or without powers. Thus, there are several reasons that cause a person to act heroically. First, someone can act heroically because he can't stand to see other people suffer. This person is someone who helps and cares because he just feels like helping and caring for someone. He can't see someone suffer and not do something about it. Then, there is this person who acts heroically because of his life experiences and because someone had helped him to be the person he is and had cared for him in the past. This person is someone who doesn't want to see people suffer because he knows how it feels to suffer, and after what he had been through, he does not want to see people around him suffer. He knows how it feels to really suffer and has decided to help and care for people the same way someone did for him.

What Causes a Person to Act Heroically?

Mohammed Bashar

6A – Iraq

Do the people need to be strong in order to be heroes? Some

people may think a hero has special characteristics, and some do not. Heroes do good and right things. They put their life in risky situations because they do not think selfishly. So many factors can be considered and cause a person to act heroically such as: saving another person's life, feeling confident and righteous, and challenging others.

Saving another person's life makes a person a hero because these habits can't be done by regular people. This act needs someone who can think perfectly to save others without any hesitation. Firefighters, for example, have the ability to carry this mission on their shoulders, and they can be a hero in various positions according to what they have done. These kind of people have ability to secure other lives from bad situations such as burning buildings. Also, they save more people's lives from burning when their vehicles burn. It is actions like these that make someone a hero.

Another factor that makes someone a hero is confidence. Feeling confident encourages people to do right things and save the society from danger. If some people do not have confidence, then they cannot do anything in front of thieves. Heroes do not think about the situation they have to face even if they may get hurt while preventing others from stealing something. Some people may be aware yet afraid to prevent theft because they think the thief poses a threat to them. So, feeling confident gives people the tools needed to be heroic.

Finally, overcoming challenges makes some people to be a hero. Challenges happen in different cases in life. For instance, some kinds of sports make some players think they can be a hero because they challenge others. For example, being a boxing





champion made Mohammed Ali a hero in his sport. Also, many players have had the opportunity to be a hero according to their individual challenges in their sports.

In conclusion, people can be heroes in different ways. Some of the factors that make people heroic are saving another person's life, feeling confident and righteous, and challenging others. I think everyone who has these characteristics can be a hero in the community.

My Hero Taipeng Su

6C – China

Since I saw this topic, I have been thinking about what a hero is in this world and who my hero is. When we talk about heroes, we also think about people who have super ability and can help people overcome some significant issues, or save someone whose life is in danger. Also, we think of them as having momentous influence of others. However, in my life, my hero is myself.

My father, who was always strict with me, was my best friend. Also, he often gave me lots of advice and guidance, and he taught me to be an honest and kind person. Therefore, I always thought that he was an example for me, and I couldn't live without him. Last year, he passed away. I had never ever thought that he would leave me although he was suffering with a severe condition. I couldn't believe that he was dead because he had told me that he could defeat his cancer when we found it. I was the first person whom he told about his disease to in my family. When he was sick, I always believed that he would get well because he had done lots of good things for others and built a road and bridge for the people in my hometown. Therefore, I thought he would be blessed by God, and the most important was that he was my hero. I knew a hero would never die. However, it happened. After he left my side, my heart died a slow death. I was very sad and missed him so much. I thought that I had no happiness anymore in my world.

One day, my mother gave a letter to me and told me that it was written by my father when he accepted the last treatment. Even though he as very weak, he had written it for two weeks. When I opened the letter and read the words "My dear son," my tears,

not from eyes, but from heart, couldn't stop falling. After I read all the words of my father's letter, I realized that I had made a mistake. I had always thought about why he was so strict on me, but I finally realized that he understood the seriousness of his situation. He wanted me to be a person who could support and take care of my family, but he didn't want me to be another him. Above all, he wanted me to be a person who I expected to be who could also support and take care of my mother and sister. Consequently, I changed my mind and overcame my heat. I decided not to give up living. I decided I would strive to live, to be a hero for myself because I am continuation of my father's life. Only if I strive to live can I overcome my vulnerability and any difficulty that I will face in my life.

I especially miss and appreciate my father. Because of him, I know that I should be a hero for myself instead of relying on him. Also, I believe that one day, he will know that I will be his pride and his hero.

My Father Is My Super Hero Byeongjoo Lee

3C – Korea

My hero is Jongsool-Lee. He is my father. My father is not a real superman. He's just human, but he is a super hero for me. There are many reasons why he is my super hero. First of all, I don't have any worries in my mind when I'm with him. I feel very relaxed and comfortable because we are very close to each other. In addition, when I faced some obstacles in my life, he always figured a way around them and gave me good advice. For example, when I was a senior high school student, I had to decide what my goal in life should be. I didn't know what to do next, but my father gave me some suggestions. I found my dream. I know he thinks about me more than other people. Finally, he has provided everything to my family. If we need something, he always figures out a way to provide it. Normally, it's about money. We can't live without money. If I didn't have my hero, I would have started working when I was a student. If I had started working, I would have given up my education. As a student, I could study and do what I wanted because my hero was supporting me. He always listens to and helps me. I really appreciate my hero, and I am really proud of him.

Ming, a Hero in My Heart

Jiliang Zhang

4D – China



What is a hero? A hero has some unique characteristics that people admire. Yao Ming, for example, is a hero in my heart because he is hard-working, a good leader, and has social responsibility.

First of all, Yao Ming is my hero because he always works hard so that he can succeed in many fields. As a famous basketball athlete, he has taken part in many competitions and won a lot of awards because he always practices and trains for more than ten

hours every day. He has even written some children's books about his experiences. He is also a businessman. For instance, he established a restaurant, named "Yao Restaurant" in Houston to introduce a lot of famous Chinese food to Americans. Moreover, he has also managed a basketball team. Because of all of his success, it is evident that he works harder than others, which makes him a hero.

Next, Yao Ming is my hero because he is a good leader. When he took part in the NBA to become the only Chinese member of the Houston Rockets team, he cooperated with other members who are from different countries, and together they won many matches in the world. Since that time, he has been leading the Shanghai Sharks team and competes in many games. Therefore, it is obvious he is a good leader in the field of sports.

Finally, Yao Ming is my hero because he is very responsible to society. There is a common saying in China that he first created: "No consumption, No slaughter." This means he works at convincing people to refuse to eat sharks to protect them. He even advertises in favor of sharks. Furthermore, he has helped the poverty in China by donating money, helping elementary schools, and training children in exercising. These are examples of social responsibility.

To sum up, it is not easy for someone to be so successful in many fields. Yao Ming is a hero in my heart because he is a diligent worker, he is a successful manager, and he is socially responsible. Nowadays, we need more people who are admired by others, like Yao Ming.

My Hero, LeBron James

Liyin Zhang

4D – China

Everyone has a hero in his heart. In the NBA, LeBron James is my hero because he has a lot of good personality that others don't have. He has a strong sense of responsibility, he never gives up, and he has gratitude. That's why he is my hero.

First of all, James is a responsible man. He always has responsibility toward his family, his team and his wife. Being a basketball player, he has many competitions that he needs to take part in and he needs a lot of time in basketball training. Although he just has little time at home, he still plays with his sons and takes them to the school when he doesn't have competition and training. For his team, he looks like a team leader and he knows how to be a good team player with his partners. James always trains with his teammates and teaches them how to play basketball. James is very faithful to his wife. Although he is a superstar, he doesn't have affairs, and he still loves his wife.

Next, James never gives up when he has some troubles and he always wants to be better. In a 2016 competition, he was hurt by his opponent with basketball. The doctor told him that he needed to have rest, but James said: "Let it go! Keep going!" At that time, the Cavaliers have been behind the Warriors three games, but James told his teammates that they had to believe they can win and they had to do them better in the competition. At the end, the Cavaliers won the playoff championship and James was the MVP. And one more thing that James spent 13 years for Cleveland to win the first championship. There are many people gave up before James got the first championship, only James has been trying and never give up. He is my hero because he never wants to give up.

Finally, James is a grateful man. At the beginning, James was just an ordinary basketball player. No one knew him and nobody liked him. His friends and instructor helped him to be a good player. After James became a famous basketball star, he didn't forget his friends and his instructor. James helped them find some new jobs and he let his instructor become his agent. He remembers all people who helped him when he was an ordinary player, and he has been very grateful to them. At the end, when James achieved success and won recognition, he chose to go back to Cleveland to the Cavaliers. Everyone wants to succeed, and James is the same. But James didn't like Durant. James didn't go to another basketball team in order to get MVP. He knew that his friends, instructor, and his team helped him, so he was very grateful to them and he wanted to stay with them forever.

When a person achieves success and wins recognition, he will usually be selfish and he will think he is the best one in the world. James is different. He didn't do this. He still loves his family and team, still plays basketball with his friends, and he still thanks the people who helped him. This is a hero, and James will be a hero in my heart forever.

Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today.

- LeBron James

My Hero is Yao

Qiyuan Peng

3D - China



Who is a hero for people? We can say that George Washington is a hero in the USA, and Mr. Mandela is a hero in every black person's heart. As we all know, a hero must do something to influence our life in a deep way. So, I want to talk about the person who has an amazing career and is

my hero. Yao Ming is from China and played for the Houston Rockets for nine years, so I want to say that it's impossible for a Houston native not to recognize Yao. In China, Yao Ming not only was a basketball player before he retired, but he also made the best use of his influence to do some things.

First, he is a famous "Yao boss" in our Chinese expression. Shanghai, his hometown, has a CBA team which belongs to Yao. Second, Yao usually engages in the government of China, and I

think that he has already opened up job prospects for the future. Right now as a president of China's basketball association, Yao often appears in many university matches to observe the condition of young players. Finally, most importantly, Yao makes people of the world learn more about China. There is a saying that Yao Ming is the bridge between China and the United States in the early 21st century. Even in the USA, Yao used his awesome performance to break every idea of people who had a lot of doubts about him. From 2002 to 2011, Yao always stayed in Houston to play. Sometimes I meet some people who may have watched a Rockets match. They always ask me the same question, "Did you recognize Yao?" I feel so happy about this question. I think it is not just my opinion, but he really is a hero in most people's heart. He is my hero.

James Rodriguez

Jangel Riascos Vargas

4A - Colombia

Over the years, the image of a super hero has been characterized as a fit person whose muscles and powers are super strong. Super powers and clothing are the first things that come to my mind when I think about heroes. James Rodriguez is a super hero on and off the soccer field. James is a Colombian soccer player who got the love of Colombian people after leaving a lasting footprint in The World Cup 2014 in Brazil. Also, His volleyed opening goal against Uruguay was described as one of the best greatest goals the World Cup has ever seen. After he won the FIFA Puskas Award for the best goal of the year and left an amazing lasting footprint in the World Cup 2014, he signed for one of the best soccer clubs around the world, Real Madrid. Beyond the amount of awards he has won, James Rodriguez is a model to follow.



My Hero Jihang Yin 6C – China



My hero is Vladimir Horowitz. Vladimir Horowitz, who was a pianist in 20th century, was a legendary person. He grew up in Russia and was a genius. Before 1924, he had studied with some masters who came from Germany and Russia. In addition, he made good progress in piano performance. In 1928, he came to the United States and worked with the New York Philharmonic. After a few years, he had become a famous pianist in the United States and became an American citizen. When he became an American

citizen, he often felt that something about music was not correct for him. He stopped piano performance for 12 years. When he lived in the U.S., he often missed his homeland and people. Not only was he a pianist, but he was also a composer. When I first listened to his composition, I felt so excited and admired him for creating the most magnificent composition. He had brilliant technique, an open mind to western culture, and a sensitive heart. In 1989, he died in New York, and some people said that the golden age of piano was over. Thus, I have enjoyed his performances. Nobody can surpass him; he is the most excellent pianist in my heart.

A Heroic Dog Connie (Kangning) Wu 4B – China

A person who has the courage to save someone else's life without thinking of a reward is a hero. An animal who does the same is a hero, too. Last year, Polo, a family dog, died saving the life of an eight-month-old girl by shielding her from a deadly house fire. On a Sunday evening, Vivian was on the second floor of her house in Baltimore, Maryland, when her mother, Erika, went outside to her car for a minute. When the mother turned around, she saw her house was in flames. Erika and her neighbors kicked in the doors and windows, trying everything to get Vivian out. It was heartbreaking to hear Vivian trapped and crying from the scorching fire of the house, but they couldn't do anything to reach her. When firefighters arrived, after 30 minutes of rescuing, they were finally able to get to the little girl who was in her room on the second floor. The firefighters were astonished by what they saw. Polo was lying on top of the little girl and had protected her from the fire with his body. He had stayed with Vivian the entire time in the bedroom instead of coming downstairs to escape. Because the dog was covering Vivian, only 20% percent of one side of her body was burned. Unfortunately, Polo died as a result of the blaze.

Polo showed his tremendous courage and loyalty to humans, even sacrificing his life. This heroic behavior has inspired people to help each other, and Polo will be always remembered.

My "Heroine" Mariangel Oberto Reyes 5B – Venezuela

The word "Hero" can have different meanings depending on the way you look at it. It's said that "Hero" is that person who helps others or saves lives and has great value. However, according to research, any person can be her/his own hero. You have the power to choose the limit. Although it is true nobody chooses his/her life nor what it will bring, everyone comes to the world with a mission to fulfill and with thousands of lessons to learn. A good illustration of this point would be this girl Maria Eloisa, who is from my country of Venezuela. She is my inspiration to write as she has demonstrated with the passage of time that she can achieve everything and overcome fear because of the way she looks at life. Despite not knowing her much, I know enough to call her "Heroine". When she was born, she had a disability in the hip which made it difficult for her to walk perfectly. She uses a universal walker which she called "Pancha" and which helps her to walk in her daily life. In addition she had many injuries on her body because her condition affected many parts of it. In spite of her condition, she views the world in a different way. She doesn't consider herself as living life as a person with a disability. She tries to do many things by herself and encourage herself to overcome her fears. She goes to the gym, parties, dances without paying attention to others, and accepts her life as it is. Maria Eloisa is a big example that one decides which limits to put on herself and can become her own hero. Having decided not to complain about it but trying to find way to deal with it, she recently graduated from college as a Lawyer with honors. She is my best definition of being a "Heroine". Briefly, "Heroes" can be defined in many ways and can be found everywhere, but what is certain is that everyone can be his/her own hero. The word "Hero" means more than a person who saves lives. Hero o heroine in this case, is that person who overcomes their fear, encourages himself/herself to look forward and never gives up in theirs dreams. Everyone has limitations in some areas, but it depends on you to be different. If you want to do something, you can. You have the power to make it real and if you don't believe me, think about Maria Eloisa.

My Hero Qin Yuefei Wei Tao 4C – China

My hero is Qin Yuefei, a student who graduated from Yale. After graduating from university, he had a lot of chances to find an easy working environment and high-paying jobs. However, since he had already had a dream in his mind, he gave up all those chances. He chose to go to a poverty-stricken area in China, where people needed to improve the irrigation system, and where people needed to promote education and nursing homes. The valuable things that he has done are far more than I can mention. He is known for saying, "We have to do valuable things one by one, step by step." Ultimately, he finished everything he wanted to do, and he achieved his dream. Between the palace and the fields, he chose the latter. Walking in the mud, he shed the sweat, which was called youth, and he planted a seed, which was called his dream.



Richman Superhero

Camik Agonkpahoun

2B – Benin

Richman has a job to do as superhero for many reasons. First, he has to be positive and confident. For example, he has to have good ideas to be useful to world and to make it better. Second, he is required to maintain a sweet relationship with other people. People can observe whether Richman respects public opinion or not, whether he respects dialogue or not, and whether he takes everyone into consideration when making decisions. He has to do these things in order to keep their trust. Third, he is like light and love. The happiness of others is also his happiness. He likes to invest in the education and health of the most disadvantaged. Richman must be strong and kind to all people of the world. To conclude, wherever a Richman goes, he is an ambassador of euphoria and good.

Super Sweet

M'Baffoue Outou

2A – Côte d'Ivoire

Super Sweet is a special hero for many reasons. First, she thinks in a new way. For example, she has new ideas about the world and how to stop the wars, so people can enjoy each other with love. Second, she is very friendly with others, like children and the elderly. Super Sweet stops the bad people who kidnap children or mistreat older people. Third, she helps other people become their best. Finally, Super Sweet is exceptional because she has a good heart and shares it with everyone. I like being Super Sweet.

My Hero, My Teacher

Juliana Sanchez Novoa

5D – Colombia

When you are a kid, people usually ask you what you want to “become” once you get older. In my case, I wanted to be a doctor, dancer, firefighter and all the professions I knew at that moment. However, as I grew up, my answer became more and more specific, and finally I realized that I wanted to be a teacher. As a student, I was always analyzing my teachers. Firstly, I wanted to know how hard I had to study. Secondly, I needed to know how to teach. Sadly, most of the teachers that were part of my student life were not too good until I started my last year in high school. Hilda Lucia Florez – that is the name of the teacher who has motivated my professional development. Hilda Lucia is not a common person. She is one of those people that, once you have known her, you have to look up to her. As a teacher, she is not only smart, patient, and original, but she is also so dedicated that you feel bad if your learning process is not as intensive as her teaching passion. Knowing each student, she adapts her teaching methods without losing her style, and somehow, as a student you are so captivated by her knowledge that you look forward to learning from her whatever she had prepared to teach. That is the teacher I would like to be.

HEROES IN MY FAMILY

Hector's Hero

Hector Contreras Saucedo

3D – USA Resident

My father is my hero. First of all, he is the oldest of ten siblings, and he had to work from an early age for to help his parents in many types of jobs. He was in charge of his brothers because his father abandoned them. Later, he was an excellent father to me and my siblings, and to my mother he has been a wonderful husband. Also, he has faced several problems in his life; he is a disabled person because his legs were amputated, so to me he is an admirable person who has not lost his joy to live despite all these hardships. Because he was an excellent son, a father and a person, my father is my hero.

My Hero Is My Mother

Mashaël Aldukhail

3D – Saudi Arabia

My mother is a big hero in my life. She gave me a life, and she takes care of me all the time. She does a lot of things for her family. For example, she cooks many delicious dishes, washes clothes for us, and teaches us many good facts about life like what to do and what to avoid. She always pushes me to go after my dreams. She likes to see everyone happy. My mother is always ready to help others. I can't think of a single moment without her.

My Hero

Nuttaya Tepudom

6C – Thailand

When I think of my hero, my mom is always the first person who pops into my head. My mom is always brave when making a hard decision, is strong in order to protect me when I get in trouble and works hard to improve our lives. She makes sacrifices to make our lives better. Once, when I was a child, I experienced how hard she worked to get through obstacles. She was a single mom with two children. She worked in an insurance company; therefore, she had to travel through the urban and the mountainous areas selling insurance. She worked all day and all night. She went to three provinces in a day, but she has never complained about her work. Until we had a better life, she would never stop working hard. Sometimes she did not even have time to eat. Thus, she is my hero, the one who influenced my life. I used to make trouble when I was a teenager. I stole her money, fought with her or did not study just because she did not have time for me. However, she has never given up on me. She has always believed in me and been by my side no matter what I have done. She has never left me whether I was feeling down, crying, or accomplishing my goal. My mom is my hero. I would never be the woman who I am today without her.

My Mother, My Hero

Thi Kim Xuyen Nguyen

4C – Vietnam

Everyone in the world has a different opinion about what a hero is. A hero is someone that inspires you to do the best or understand you. For me, my mother is my hero because in my heart she is not only my mother, but also my mentor, my inspiration, and my best friend.

First, she is my hero because she has taught me a lot of things that I use and will use for the rest of my life. She always advises and motivates me when I lose my way. I remember that last year, when I was preparing for my college, I was so nervous and confused between choosing Hotel Management, which is my dream major, or Business. However, some people told me my major couldn't make lots money, and it was hard to find a job. At that time, I was afraid of making my own decisions, and I wanted to give up. My mother encouraged and supported me a lot. In addition, she explained the most important factor of learning to me and analyzed some necessary information about my major for job opportunities after graduating. Consequently, I decided to follow my dream and believe in myself.

Next, my mother is my hero because she gives me lots of inspiration. Although she is just a normal officer, she is also a member of Women's Organization in my hometown. She usually joins in charity activities and helps poor or unlucky people by serving food or collecting old books or old clothes for poor children. Moreover, she helps some women who advising in situations of family violence in order to help people find their happiness and reclaim their own life. Everyone who receives her help always loves and respects her so much. My mother is a good role model.

Finally, besides being my mentor and inspiration, my mother is also my best friend. She knows everything that has happened in my life. For example, she knows who my first love was or where I hid my bad grades. We go shopping, go to the movies, and taste some delicious foods together and even keep secrets for each other. Furthermore, she is always by my side to encourages me if I am upset or crying. Sometimes, we have arguments and disagree on a lot of things, but no matter how big of a fight we get in; we always make up quickly and love each other more. So, my mother is my hero because she is my best friend.

My mother is my hero not because of how she impacts the world, but how she impacts me. She has blessed me with a great life, and I am forever thankful for all she has done for me. No one can replace the space she has in my heart.

My Wife

Rodolfo Danilo Prado Saavedra

3C – USA Resident

Do you think there exists a person called "Hero" in our lives? I think that, yes, there does. I have been married for three years to a brave and wonderful woman called Cinthia M. She is my hero on earth for a very important reason: She is my support when I have a problem

"In a world of ordinary mortals, you are a wonder woman."

– Queen Hippolyta from "Wonder Woman"



in different aspects of my life. For example, when I have questions about academic English, she almost always teaches or corrects me; in fact, I consider her my second teacher because she sometimes gives me homework. Additionally, I see a brave woman in her because she always works hard whether it is at work or home. When she proposes something, she is able to stay awake to get it done as soon as possible. Also, we are a perfect combination because together we can get things done quickly.

Where is My Hero?

Trung Le

6C – Vietnam

When a father risked his life to save his daughter from a shooting in Syria, I called him a hero. When a nine-year-old boy decided to slip into a pit to rescue a baby who had accidentally fallen, I also called him a hero. Likewise, when a policewoman investigated and prevented a terrorist plan in Paris, people also called her a heroine. Since I was a child, heroes/heroines in my imagination are just normal people who always fight against fear, fight for justice, and fight for other people. Heroes and heroines are everywhere around us. They seem to be very ordinary, but what they do for others is completely extraordinary. Heroes always fight against fear, which is the greatest enemy of humans. Many heroes, from cartoons to our real lives, have a common characteristic: they are always brave, stalwart, and fearless. They chase the fear away from people who get in trouble. For instance, a father in Syria as just mentioned above, used his body to cover his young daughter and calmed her down while terrorists were shooting at the crowd. His love for his little girl was large enough to extinguish the fear inside him.

Also, many doctors have become heroes and heroines when they tried to save desperate patients who were suffering from cancers or chronic diseases. They convinced them to fight against the fear of death and guided them to continue their lives. These heroes/heroines looked very simple in appearance, but they are very monumental for their humanity. Heroes and heroines always fight for justice. Indeed, justice is the right standard for people to believe in, but once this standard gets imbalanced, criminals start to rise up. A hero in some cartoons for children usually appears to pursue robbers or investigate some clues. They are representatives of the faith of humans about their right to be treated equally and the belief of a just world. In real life, they are police officers, security guards, pastors, or politicians who always stand for justice and the rights of humans. Heroes and heroines are also lovable since they always fight for other people. When they decided to help or protect people from incidents, they sacrifice themselves knowing that their lives might be risked somehow. As an example, the young boy who tried to rescue the unlucky baby inside a hole knew nothing about her family, but he knew that his life might be in danger because there was not enough air at the bottom of the pit. Moreover, he would kill the baby if he made any tiny mistakes that could lead to the collapse of the ground in the hole. The inner space only allowed one skinny child to go into it, and that valiant boy took the risk and slid down into the hole to lift the baby up. Finally, he succeeded and deserved to be honored as a real hero. There are many ways to be a hero, but the paramount way always comes from our hearts. I believe that heroes and heroines don't need to have superpower or super actions. They are just normal people around me who are continuously fighting against fear, fighting for justice and for other people to have a better life.

HEROES IN MY FAMILY

Who is your Hero?

Xiao Xiao

3C – China

My hero is special and important to me. She is my mother. She not only gave me life, but she has spent a lot for me to improve myself. Actually, I was a child from single parent family. My parents divorced when I was young. I lived with my mother and I was her only child. She bore all the pain for me which demonstrates how strong she was. I remember she always said everything was okay and made a happy relaxed childhood for me, but I knew that was not true. She always worked hard and didn't tell anyone. She even sold her only house for me to study abroad. What a great mother she is. She is my hero because she gave all to me. So I'll make more effort to give her in return and take care her life in future. I will also try to be her hero.

My Hero: My Amazing Grandmother

Sarah Moya Machado

5A – France

Almost everyone has a hero, since they were a child. A hero is a person who we admire for different reasons. These heroes can change depending on culture and depending on many other features. In my case, my grandma is my biggest hero because she taught me two valuable lessons, one of which is persistence and the other is open-mindedness.

The first thing that my grandmother taught me was to never give up. When she was very young, she lost her father so she had to grow up with only her mother, who didn't have money to live. As a result, my grandma started working from the time she was a little girl, but she never gave up. Over the years, she faced many challenges, but she always picked herself up and started again until she succeeded. Her persistence taught me to keep going even when things were difficult. The second important lesson that my grandmother taught me was to be open minded. Her father, who was Jewish, was from Spain, and her mother, who was Catholic, was from Venezuela. Because she came from a blended family, she had a different view of culture than most people at that time. Perhaps for this reason she married a man from Africa, which was very unusual at that time. I didn't realize how useful this lesson was for me until I became an adult and left the country where I was born. Now, living abroad I have realized the value of being open to different cultures. In conclusion, usually, our heroes teach us something that we can apply during our life. In my case, my grandma taught me the importance of persistence and open-mindedness which helped me to achieve my goals and enjoy different people's cultures because we have always somethings to learn from them. My hope is to be able to pass these lessons to others one day.

My Father Is my Hero

Irene Abeso Angue

5B – Equatorial Guinea

What is it really like to be a hero? That was the question I used to ask myself when I was a child. Back then, I didn't understand why Superman and Batman were referred to as heroes. They were just two characters that I used to see on TV but with whom I couldn't play with in real life or be joyful about because of an unexpected visit from them in the boarding school on a gloomy Sunday. No, that does not happen in real life. You don't just watch a movie with Jet Li and, on the next day, have him become an active part of your life. They are personas created by a really brilliant and creative mind whose purpose might have been to entertain people. Nevertheless, from the very first moment I opened my eyes when I came to this world, I did know someone who has been my role model and who has had a great influence on what I understand today as being a "hero", My father.

My father is one of the most trustworthy people I have ever known in all my entire life. When he promises something, he delivers. He is someone to whom I would go when I think I cannot keep going by myself. He always has my back. I can always count on him. Just an example, when I finished my bachelor degree, I was depressed because, suddenly, my future was displayed before me as a path full of trees of uncertainty. Don't get me wrong, the future is not certain, but we all know that if you play your cards right, your likelihood of doing a pretty good job is higher. Just ask organized people like my sister. She is always prepared for her next step. But I wasn't. After finishing my bachelor degree, I was lost. Here is the thing; I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just wanted to do many things at the same time, which was a big limitation because when you have many ideas in your mind, it is tough to just choose one because every single one of them looks like the optimal one. In other words, I didn't have my priorities straight. I wanted to do a Master's Degree in Supply Chain Management, to start working, to enroll myself on a new course, and to learn English, etc. I was stressed out and insecure. I cast myself inside a huge hole in which I was stuck. But then my father appeared and helped me to see everything I wasn't able to realize because my eyes were dazzled with pessimism. My father made me believe in myself again, which made me fully comprehend what I wanted my next step to be.

In conclusion, if someone asked me what it means to be a hero, unlike the child who didn't understand what a hero was, I would say a hero is someone with whom you can count on even if you are not aware of it; a hero is someone that has your back; a hero is someone who sacrifices his or her own comfort to see you thrive. For me, that someone is my father but it can also be your dog, Batman, a neighbor, or so on. It is up to you, everyone has a definition of what a hero is, and that is also perfectly okay.

Being A Hero

Elizabeth Gurrola Cantu

5A – Mexico

Being a hero is more than wearing a red cape and fighting against the bad guys. Being a hero is trying to be a friend of that little child bothered at school. Being a hero is giving a place to stay to that helpless animal in the street. Being a hero is offering something to those who are homeless and just want something to survive the next day. Being a hero is to smile to that person who seems to be passing through a bad moment. Simply put, being a hero is caring about someone else when nobody else does, hoping to save them from those bad times by telling them everything it's going to be ok. However, if that doesn't work, like someone famous once said, "Smile, tomorrow may be worse!". You maybe cannot save the world, but you will definitely make the day better.

Quiet Heroes

Nguyen Trung Anh Ngo

4C – Vietnam

Do you know what factor makes a person a quiet hero? I think it is the simple things that create a hero. The quiet hero is not a super man and not born to be a hero but rather a fearless man who is determined to save other people's lives before his life. They are always present and act in the right time to rescue people. For instance, in America, we have Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, a former US Airways pilot, who successfully put his passenger plane on the Hudson River on January 15th, 2009 after it struck a flock of Canadian geese, thereby saving all 155 people aboard and becoming a national hero. Similarly, in Vietnam, we have the truck driver who used his car to save the bus whose brakes failed by letting his truck be hit by the bus. After that, both cars slid on the road for nearly one km, scaring all the passengers and witnesses. He rescued all 30 people aboard and became a community hero on September 6th, 2016. "At that time, I was just thinking how to prevent the passenger car from collapsing. I think, it was my duty in that situation to force me to act like that – rescued people while I still could." said Bac. The action of Phan Van Bac was very smart and brave. He was smart because he found the fastest way to handle in seconds. Both of these examples are typical symbols of the quiet hero. They always forget about themselves in order to rescue other people. In sum, all of us are able to be a quiet hero with love and sacrifice as long as we act for community with our heart.

What Causes a Person to Act Heroically?

Erik Vazquez Perez

6A – Mexico

In my opinion, what causes a person to act heroically is the feeling of empathy and also the fact that nobody else is doing something to help the person or animal that is in danger. Sometimes, a small boost of adrenaline is also involved. For example, if a building is burning, and there is still a little girl

inside, what causes the firefighter to get inside the building to rescue that little girl is the feeling that if he was in a similar situation, someone would try to save him. That is called empathy. Also the fact that nobody else is going to enter the building and rescue her drives the firefighter to act. There are many reasons other people may not act, whether it be because people value their lives more that they value others or because they really don't want to risk their lives to rescue a girl that they may not even know. But adrenaline is helpful in these situations too, because it leaves all logic out and makes the firefighter act impulsively, and in consequence, he enters the building and tries to save the girl. Another case in which people act empathetically, and thus heroically, is when an animal is in danger. Let's say a dog is in a river. The water level of the river has increased because of the rain, and the dog is about to drown. If a man that was passing by saw it, something might drive him to go to the river to help it. You may be wondering what that thing is? It is because nobody else is going to help the dog if he doesn't, and also, the adrenaline prevents him from thinking about the consequences of his actions. In that moment, he only wants to rescue the dog. That makes him an empathetic hero.

So, in conclusion, the reason why people act heroically is very simple, they act like that because the humanity that is inside them motivates them to act like heroes. The adrenaline helps them too because it sharpens the senses and allows them to complete their heroic tasks.

What It Means to be a Hero

Yueh-O Lee

4C – Taiwan

A hero is a person who can show courage when they are in a difficult situation. To me, a hero should be able to help others. A hero is brave and takes big risks for other people. For example, a fireman puts himself in danger to save other people's lives. He must save as many people as possible from the fire without being anxious. These people are not just employees doing a job, they are heroes who sacrifice themselves to keep people from danger. Also, a hero is unselfish and gives to other people. For example, teachers educate future generations. If there were no teachers to educate us about different aspects of the world, then there would be no scientists, engineers, doctors, and chefs. Overall, a hero is a person who has courage to drive him or her further, who puts themselves at risk for others, and who unselfishly shares valuable knowledge. These are the characteristics of a hero.

HEROES HAVING FUN



The Summer 2017 Field Trip Phuc Nguyen

3B-Vietnam

I had a great time when I went to the summer 2017 field trip at Stewart Beach, Galveston. On that day, all the LCC students gathered in front of the Hilton Hotel before 9:30 am. While waiting for the bus, my classmates and I took some pictures together. After that, we got on the bus to go to Stewart Beach. As soon as the bus arrived at the beach, I realized that there were a lot of seagulls which were rarely seen in my country. When they flew slowly in front of me, I started to watch them for a moment and took a lot of pictures of them. Furthermore, I played football with my new friends in the sea, and it was my first time I attended football match like this. Even though I was choked by water a little bit, I didn't stop playing with my team. After playing games, all students were provided various kind of foods for their lunch such as snacks, fresh watermelon, and sandwiches. I really loved the barbecued flavor snack because its taste was so delicious. Finally, we went back home at 5 p.m. I really felt so exhausted. But it was an unforgettable and most memorable day and was also a fabulous experience with many friends from different cultures.



HEROES TAKING A BREAK





LCC PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

Top row: Yu Ting Huang, Jasmeet Punia,
Phuoc (Joseph) Nguyen

Front row: Allyson (Ally) Yolland, Jasmin Rico,
Apoorva Pingali, Channon Marie Burns



LCC Calendar

Fall Term 2017

Important Dates

September 5 – 12

Online Registration Begins

Tuesday, September 12

Student Check-in
Tuition and Fee Payment Due

Wednesday, September 13

Testing
Late Online Registration

Thursday, September 14

Student Activity
Late Online Registration Ends

Friday, September 15

First Assembly/Orientation
Last Day of Late Registration

Monday, September 18

Classes Begin

Wednesday-Friday, November 22, 23, 24

Thanksgiving Holidays – No Classes

December 4 – 8

Promotion Tests
Final Exams

Monday, December 11

Testing

Tuesday, December 12

No Classes

Wednesday, December 13

Final Student Activity

Thursday, December 14

Student-Teacher Conferences (morning)
Graduation Ceremony (afternoon) Graduation Ceremony (afternoon)

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