

How My Environment Has Made Me Who I Am

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Toni Morrison Day Essay Contest
For Young People

By Duy “Minh” Pham

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These are many things in my environment that have made me the young 8 year old boy I am today. Not having grandpas has made me the person I am today. Having 2 grandmas and not knowing what it feels like when I was born to have a grandpa made me who I am. Being raised by grandma in Vietnam who cooked food for me and played with me while mom and dad were working has made an impact in my life. How and where I was raised had a huge impact on my life and having siblings that were brothers and not sisters. The way my mom and dad taught me math had a great influence on my life.

Not having grandpas in life was not that easy. I always thought about what having grandpa feels like. I was lucky though to have my two grandmas. My grandma helped to raise me in Vietnam by cooking for me and playing with me everyday while mom and dad were working. This had a great influence on the person that I became. Grandma taught me kindness.

Being born in Vietnam and then moving to Florida in the US at five years old has had a big effect on my life. We came to the United States because my dad wanted to learn a different language and at first, I thought it was hard to go to school. Now, I'm graceful about moving to the US. Having moved around further in the states, growing up, from California, leaving my friends behind, to go to Ohio for my dad's new job, had a great impact on my life. I really miss all my friends in California when I went to Ohio. My mom flew on a plane to Ohio with my brothers and I, while my dad went by car.

I enjoy having two brothers. We play with each other and help each other with work. This has made me the kind of person that I am, good at math and reading. Not having a sister has also had a huge effect on the kind of person that I have become. Not knowing what having a sister feels like has had a big influence on me. I always thought about what a sister feels like.

I love the math that my mom and dad teaches me and that has had a tremendous impact in my life. That is why I am excellent at math. Their love for math has been shared with me and that has made my brothers and I have that same love for math.

So many things have made me the Minh that I am today but these are the things with the deepest effects on my life and creating my character and behaviors.