

2 Brothers Transportation

My parents came to the United States as refugees with my three older siblings. Even though I was born in Houston Texas, after only being in America for a couple years, my family decided to move back to where they are from and leave the United States to help our grandparents with health issues. In the time that I spent in the United States, I was too young to start going to school, let alone learn how to speak English, especially since my parents and older siblings all spoke Arabic with each other. We moved back to where my family grew up so majority of my childhood I grew up in a foreign country. My siblings continued going to school there and I was just starting elementary school. The primary language where we lived was Arabic so I was learning things in that language and never really had a reason to learn English. When my siblings were reaching an older age, my parents decided to move back to America so that we could all have the best education that we could get. This move didn't affect my siblings as much as it did me because they were more familiar with the English language than I was. Since my siblings were able to pick up English when we first moved to the United States they knew most of the language and could converse with other people. I however was a completely other story. When we moved back to the US, I started second grade without knowing how to speak or read English. This made it extremely difficult for me to understand and learn anything in school and at the end of it all, I ended up failing second grade. This was a major setback in my life because I felt like I wasn't as smart as the rest of kids in school. I was placed in an English as a Second Language program where I started to pick up the language and learned how to speak and write English. It was a very tedious year in my life but I managed to get through it. Even though being put in the program made me feel inferior to the rest of the kids, I knew I had no other option but to push through. In addition, I wasn't able to make any friends and it was overall one of the hardest years to get through. At the end of it all, I came out of the program excelling in all subjects. I was scoring the highest marks in all my classes and over the next couple years, people were coming to me for help. As I continued my education, I was only getting better and better at nearly every subject. I always ended up being one of the top students in my classes year after year. I took many AP classes in high school and finished high school in three years to make up for the year that I lost in elementary school. I have always been very dedicated to school and now I enjoy the ups and downs that comes with the work load that school throws at students. I used to be ashamed that I failed second grade but now I take it as a blessing because it taught me how to work hard. Being in the position of not knowing a language that causes you to be behind everyone else was a very daunting experience. I know that If I hadn't experienced that I wouldn't be as hard of a worker as I am today. I always aim to be as knowledgeable as I can be and I continue to strive to be the top student in all my classes. This experience influenced my development because now I never let myself fall below what I know I can achieve. It has made me work that much harder in classes and motivates me every time I feel like I cannot do something.