

Many students have stories of a difficult situation faced during their time at school. Richard Rodriguez and his family went through a few struggles themselves. In “Public and Private Language,” Rodriguez discusses the hard time he had learning the English language. He wasn’t the only one who had to get accustomed to speak English, so did his parents. The family’s relationships started to change as they spoke English more. Rodriguez felt as if his only intimate place was taken over by something new in his life. After accepting the new language, his mother and siblings socialized more with the neighborhood and didn’t spend that much time with each other. His family’s closeness at home was lessened and they no longer bonded as much as before. They remained a loving family, but became more public.

In Ying Lin’s essay “Language and Me,” she speaks of how she was treated as a foreign student. She describes the rude and unfair ways she was treated and how she was being classified by her ethnicity, name, and appearance everywhere she went. She had to deal with classmates making jokes about her name and her English skills. Lin was facing a very unfair moment in life that made her depressed. One day, she read a Chinese article that said language is the most important tool humans need because it can shake the whole world. Lin used that as encouragement to do better in her life and to prove she was able to become successful. She used all the teasing as an encouragement to overthrow all the difficulties. It gave her strength to achieve her goals.

To this day, my father still finds any little thing to complain about, but I don’t let that interfere with my future. I chose to move in with my aunt in order to attend CSUN. Everything has been going great so far, but I just sometimes wish my father would stop complaining and see where I am now in life.

Works Cited

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