

## JASMINE'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA

My name is Jasmine, and I am in third grade at John Gill School. My grandparents have a very interesting story. My grandma's parents lived in China when the civil war started. My grandma's dad was a three-star general in Chiang Kai Shek's army. Chiang Kai Shek was the leader of the Nationalists. The Communists were hurting the smart people like all the teachers and lawyers, so my grandma's parents fled to Taiwan to escape. My grandma was the eighth out of ten children, but she wasn't born yet when her family fled. Her parents had to leave two children behind in China.

From my grandma's story, I learned my ancestors sacrificed a lot of things for me to have the freedom I have now. When I grow up, I want to be a librarian because I love books. But my grandma told me that Chairman Mao, the leader of the Communists, used to burn books. He would say, "The more books you read, the more stupid you become." This is an opinion, and it's not true. The more books you read, the smarter you get. You learn things from reading. If you read nonfiction, you can learn about science and things that are real. Fiction books can also teach you. Fairytales usually have a moral. Chairman Mao didn't want people to read books because he thought if people got too smart they wouldn't agree with him. I think a good President should want people to be smart. Then they can't be cheated. Smart people can pick the best ruler.

My grandma was very smart because she picked my grandpa even though her father didn't agree. My grandma's dad didn't want my grandma to marry my grandpa because he was poor and Indian. My grandma's dad didn't like Indians because he said they ate with their hands and didn't wear shoes. But my grandma fell in love with my grandpa because he read books and was very smart. When they first met, they shared their favorite quotes of Shakespeare. My grandma and grandpa eloped and moved to San Francisco. They passed down their love of reading to my mom, and she passed it down to me.

When I am a librarian, I will encourage people to read. If people read, they will be able to think for themselves. Educated people are more accepting of everyone's differences. I am the first generation in my family not to experience discrimination because now there are so many different kinds of people in Redwood City. For example, all the kids in my class are mixed. Most are half Chinese and half another nationality. In America, we have a democracy. That means you get to pick your President, so if people are smart, they will choose the best person for the job. If people can't think for themselves, they might choose a bad leader. My contribution to America will be to give people knowledge, and knowledge is the power to make the best decisions.

By Jasmine Wang-Jethi