

CLASS 3A SCHOOL STORIES

ANMEE CHEN

My School Life

When I was a student in middle school, I was thirteen years old. I always sat in a small chair. The first year I liked to study everything. Math was my favorite subject. My math teacher's name was Hong Min Hui. He was strict. I thought math was interesting.

When I was in middle school, I had a best friend. Her name was He Dan Hong. She always played with me, and we always had lunch and dinner together. Now she is in New York. We work together.

In my second year of middle school, I fell in love with my best friend's brother, so my grades were bad. When I took a test I always did badly. I knew I needed to study very hard. After that we went to different high schools.

When I was in high school, I made new friends. They were very friendly. We often played together. I remember when it was my birthday, they bought a big cake for me and then sang birthday songs to me. We were so happy. I was thankful to everybody. We still keep in touch on WeChat.

LI PING CHEN

The Flower Street

I almost cannot remember anything from my elementary or middle school. I lived alone in high school. I went to school after I woke up, and I went home after class every day while I was in high school. Sometimes I went to the market and bought some food. I did not take any trips. My life was so boring. So I really do not know what I can write. If I must here is a little story.

In China, people love to go to the flower streets before Chinese New Year. One time my friends and I went to the market and bought some things, and then got a place on the flower street. We thought we could sell everything in three days. The problem was all my friends had to go home every night but I did not. So I did not sleep for three days, and I had to make sure everything was safe. After three days, there were some little things still there and everyone lost 70 yuan because we got 700 yuan in fake bills.

The last night, we went to have a drink and eat. I drank a little too much; I was so tired and sleepy. While I crossed the road, I stood in the middle of the road and fell asleep. I was so lucky there were no cars because it was so late. A few minutes later, my friends found me and woke me up.

At the end, all the guys in this story became my best friends.

SHU FANG CHEN

My School

When I was in elementary school, I never got in trouble in school, but I never understood the homework, so I didn't get good grades in school.

In middle school I needed to live at school. I went back home once a week, and every Monday morning I needed to bring a week's worth of rice to school. My grades still weren't good. One day my mom said, "If you don't improve your grades after one year, you should drop out of school."

In my high school, I still lived at school, but now I had good grades. Every week my mom gave me thirty yuan, so now I didn't need to bring rice every week. I was very happy because the rice was heavy for me. Now I had money. I could buy my favorite food. I didn't need to eat rice every day.

XIU ZHEN CHEN

An Interesting Story

My middle school's name was Pei Ying. At that time, almost all of the students lived at the school. We had to live and eat at the school because we came from villages. We used to go home once a week. We paid three yuan every day, and we needed to bring twenty pounds of rice every month to school.

In our village, we had new rice every year. Our rice was good. But when we brought this rice to school, a worker at the school changed the new rice for old rice. We didn't like to eat the old rice. After that, we talked together, and we brought half new and half old rice. Then the worker asked us, "Why don't you have new rice?" We told the worker that we didn't have enough rice to eat at home, so we bought old rice at the store, because at that time the stores only sold old rice. After that we could eat better rice.

YU YU CHEN

A Story of My Middle School

In 2006, I was a middle school student. I was a good student in middle school. My favorite subject was English, and my favorite teacher was Lin.

In my middle school, I had classes from 7:30 to 5:30. Before the classes began, we had thirty minutes to exercise. We did exercise at the playground together. After that, we began classes. Each class was forty minutes. We had a ten-minute break after each class. During the break time I felt very happy because there was a snack bar in the school, and my parents gave me ten yuan for snacks. So I went to the snack bar during the break with my classmates.

We had four classes in the morning and four classes in the afternoon. Between morning classes and afternoon classes, I had lunch at the school cafeteria. The food there was very cheap: it was two or three RMB for two meats, two vegetables and one soup. But the food wasn't very yummy. I didn't like it, but I had to eat it. When lunch time finished, we had an hour for a nap. That was a great time in our day. I really enjoyed it. After that we continued the classes.

The special thing in school was I had to live there. I couldn't go home every day at that time. I could only go home once a week, after all the classes finished on Friday. So I made some good friends in my middle school. We studied together, we ate together, we played together and we lived together!

SI TING FAN

About My School Life

I watched cartoons when I was in elementary school. I turned on the TV after I put down my backpack. I rode my bike to school when I was in elementary school. I went to school with my sister.

In my middle school, I was a little shy. But I had two best friends; we played together. We exercised after class. We did research when we didn't understand new words. We loved to read in the library. We woke up at 7:00. There were eight classes every day. Most of the students liked to go to music class. I got great grades in middle school, so I went to the best high school.

In my high school, it was very strict. We had to wear uniforms. We woke up at 6:30 and went to sleep at 11:00. I had a lot of homework. We had a test once a month. If I didn't know how to figure out the answer, my classmates helped me. Every morning, we had to hand in the homework before class. I went to the deli to buy snacks with my best friends after class.

YUEH HONG HSIA

New Teacher

When I got into high school in 1990, I was so happy because only twenty percent of students could get into high school. We had two choices: we could study the sciences or the arts. I chose the sciences because math was my favorite subject.

My math teacher was a young man who had just graduated from college. He was tall and slim, wore glasses and he usually wore gray clothes. He was from another city and had a heavy accent. There was never any expression on his face. My classmates and I always copied his accent to make fun of him. I didn't like him very much. One day I told him, "Why don't you go back to your city? You have a heavy accent. I don't understand you."

After that, he didn't care about us. Whatever we did in class, he just taught by himself. I was sad, and my math skills got worse. I had been number one or two, but now I was last. I just waited to graduate.

AI PING HUANG

My Unforgettable High School Life

My high school was strict. It was a public high school. My high school life was very busy and hard. In China, every high school student had to pass the test to go to the university, and the test was very difficult for students, so I lived at school for the last three months to get ready for the test. It is the same as the SAT in the U.S.A., but it is very important.

Every day, I woke up at 5:30, and then I ran on the playground. I read my English books at 6:00. I had breakfast at 7:00.

The first class was reading class at 7:30. We had eight classes about the different subjects every day. We had to pay attention in our classes. We did homework every day and went over homework ourselves at night.

I was very busy and it was hard. Sometimes my father dropped off my favorite foods at school for me. These were happy times in my memory. We went to sleep at 11:00.

This was my high school life. It was unforgettable for me.

HUA JIANG

One Thing I'll Never Forget

When I was in middle school, one thing I'll never forget was I skipped class to watch a movie with my classmates. I still remember that the movie was called *Shao Lin Si* and that my favorite actor was in it.

My classmates and I were so excited that we decided to go to the movies. We spent the whole afternoon at the movie theater. After the movie finished I felt butterflies in my stomach. "I shouldn't have gone to the movie theater. I should have gone to school," I thought when I got home.

It was getting dark. Oh my goodness! My father was waiting for me. He looked very angry. He asked me where I had gone. I was afraid of my father because he was strict, so I told him the truth. Then I saw him pick up a stick and he gave me a spanking. Ouch! That hurt a lot. And he also didn't allow me to have dinner. I cried. I knew I had done something wrong because in my life my father had never done anything like that before. Even today I still remember that.

CHUI CHUN LEE

Elementary School

One day on my way to elementary school, I fell down on the street and broke my finger. People called my parents. Then they sent me to the hospital. At that time I was worried about that. We didn't have enough money to pay the medical bill, because at the time my family was poor.

Plus it was very painful. I cried. My teacher comforted me and told me I didn't have to worry about that. After that my teacher and classmates always came to my home to visit and helped me to make up homework.

At the time, I thought I should study harder to get good grades to thank my teacher and classmates. When I recovered, my grades improved in every subject. I was a good student and a teacher's pet.

I always think kids' education is very important. They should learn when they are in school. Even when we are older, we should continue education and learn every day.

WEI RUN LI

My School History

When I was in elementary school, I was very intelligent and very friendly because I always did my homework, paid attention in class, did the exercises correctly and handed in the homework on time. I was very friendly because I was from another country.

When I was in elementary school, sometimes students from another class would pick on me. They dropped my food on the floor and sometimes they hit me and said something bad about me. One day I told my teacher what happened because I didn't want those guys to hit me anymore. So the teacher told the director about my situation and the director suspended those guys for a few days and called their parents.

When I was in middle school I was still intelligent and very smart because I really wanted to finish my middle school and continue on to high school. Sometimes in middle school people hit me too because I didn't pass my homework to them, but I made a lot of good friends too. They helped me with my class exercises and talked with me when I was worried.

After that I told my mom I didn't want to live in this state anymore, I had to move another state. Then we moved to Merida, Mexico to continue my studies.

When I was in high school my grades dropped because I worked and studied at the same time. I fell behind, but my high school was fun. Everybody was friendly to me, and no one hit me or said something bad about me. People liked to talk with me and do projects with me. My physical education teacher liked me too, because I loved sports and competed in running and I won.

XUE YING LI

A Story About My Birthday

When I was sixteen years old, I had a surprise party in my high school. I still remember that day. I remember that day was a sunny day. I woke up at 6 am. I thought, "Today is my birthday. Maybe nobody will remember my birthday." I was a little upset. I went to school. I didn't tell my friends. Nobody said happy birthday to me. Maybe they didn't know today was my birthday.

After school, I got ready to get home. My friend told me, "Ms. Li wants to tell you something in classroom." I went back to classroom. I opened the door. There were my classmates all in the classroom, and there was a birthday cake on the table. They sang a birthday song to me, "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you..." I was very excited and very surprised. I said thank you to all of them, and I made a wish. I hoped we would have a life-long friendship.

XIU YUN LI

Barbecue Fight

Jin, Fen and Feng were my best friends in elementary school. We had a common favorite sport, volleyball. We needed to do some training after school every day, except weekends.

So one weekend we planned to have a barbecue party outside. We bought a lot of food, like chicken wings, pork ribs, eggplants, meatballs, some fruit and beverages. We also invited other classmates, including boys. It was a large place for people to have a party. We like the place very much.

After we got there, we start to barbecue. All of us made things by ourselves: some girls washed the vegetables and fruit and the boys made a fire next to the stone table. After we finished all of the work, we started to roast the meat.

Just at that time, there came three teenagers. They wanted us to go away and leave all of the food there. They wanted to take our things. It was crazy. All of us were shocked, but we were not afraid of them. We got into a fight with them. They made fun of our clothes and our food, and the worst thing was they wanted to hit us. Unbelievable! Several girls started to cry and scream, which made the other people pay attention. They were

adults. They came towards us quickly and asked what happened. We told them what had happened to us. We said that three teenagers were bullying us. They wanted to take all of our things and kick us out.

After the adults heard that, they got angry and shouted to the three bad guys, "You three must leave here immediately! Stop doing bad things to kids, otherwise we will call the police!" When the three bad guys heard the word "police," they rushed away.

Finally, we were safe and we were very thankful to the adults. After that, we went on enjoying our barbecue party.

LI LIAN LIANG

A Flood in Our School

In my first year of high school, there was a big flood in our city. Before the flood came, my classmates and I were very worried. We stayed in our dormitory and listened to the flood news on the radio. We didn't have class for several days. We called our families. We all wanted to leave the school, but we didn't have the guts to go out because we knew the flood was coming. Also it was raining. It rained heavier and heavier.

On the third night, the water started to come into our school. The water went over the campus, and flooded the first floor. One of our classmates woke everybody up and said, "Go, go! The water is flooding our dormitory!" We all got up immediately. We ran to the mountain behind our school. It was still raining. We all got wet and we were very scared.

The next morning the rain stopped and it turned sunny. The water started to retire. We went back to our school. There was a lot of mud covering the floors. We couldn't walk easily in the mud. We had to clean all the dirty and wet stuff. Some of the stuff we couldn't use any more. We were all very upset about the flood. We wished the flood would not come any more.

DAN LIN

Elementary Things

In my memory, elementary school was the best time. At that age you don't think too much. I liked going to school when I was in elementary school.

One day I told my mom, "Can you wake me up early tomorrow, mom?"

My mom asked, "Why? Every morning when I wake you up, you always say you want five minutes more."

"I want to go to school to play with my classmates. That will be fun," I said.

My mom smiled. "I'm so happy that you like to go to school now."

The next day, my mom woke me up early. I ate breakfast and then picked up my school bag and went to school. My mom didn't know I brought a lot of playing cards in my bag.

"Hello, everyone! I brought a lot of cards. Let me show you," I said.

"Oh, really?" My classmates came to my side. We talked about playing cards. My classmates showed me their cards, too. We had fun.

In the summer time, we went on a school trip. We took a bus. We went to the seaside. We picked up shells and we played in the water. We had fun.

SEN LIANG LIN

A Good Friend

I remember one thing that happened in elementary school. One day a new student came to our class. He had long hair and big eyes. He looked like a girl. One teacher told us that the student's name was Qi Wang. He had transferred from another school.

The teacher needed the students to help the new student. But I wanted to make fun of him. During the break, we called the student “Girl,” and some students made fun of him. Later the student reported this to the teacher. The teacher was angry. He called us into his office and we stood there for one hour. We were unhappy.

I thought we should find an opportunity to get revenge on the new student. I needed to call my good friends to beat him. So one day after school, we stopped him and beat him up. We were very happy we got our revenge.

The next day, he didn’t come to school and our teacher came and he took the five people who were involved in the fight to the principal’s office. The principal notified our parents. I knew we were in big trouble. I was very worried.

I waited a long time. My mother finally came and the principal told her about my beating up the new student. My mother was very angry. She apologized to the school for me. After she talked to the principal, my mother brought me back home. On the way my mother told me that fighting is wrong and that I shouldn’t bully other students. She told me that classmates are like brothers and sisters and friends and that we should help each other.

In the evening, my mother took me to Qi Wang’s house to apologize. My mother apologized to his parents, and I also apologized to Qi Wang and I assured everybody I wouldn’t fight again. He forgave me and took me to play with his toys. We became good friends. Since then I’ve never had a fight.

MONICA MING

My Best Friend in My Life

I grew up in a small town and people knew each other well. My elementary school was small too. One day, a new teacher from another place came. She was very strict. At the same time, her seven-year-old daughter came to my town, and I was six that year.

My home was near school and the teachers taught and lived in the school, so the new teacher’s daughter and I had enough time to talk, share, play, and study together. We became friends soon.

At that time, we complained about our teachers, classmates, and parents. We thought about our future lives, and we thought that our friendship would last as long as we lived. But as we grew up, everything changed.

When we were in elementary school, we got good grades and it was easy for us. When we went to middle school, it was not so easy. When we went to high school, it was hard. Her teacher mom didn’t allow her to play or go out. She had to study all the time, and her mom even told me to study harder and leave her alone. I became scared to meet her because her mom didn’t want me to.

She was one year older than me and she had her classmates and friends too. She was so busy and I was busy too. In high school, we thought about if we went to college would we have enough time to talk and play together just like when we were in elementary school? What we should do was study harder.

Finally, we went to college but we were in different cities. At the beginning, we kept in touch and talked about our lives. Slowly, we texted instead of talked on the phone. We wrote messages online instead of texts. And years later, we just expressed good wishes or something else on social media.

When I talk about best friends in my life, I always think about her. When I grew up I made a lot of friends but there was no best one. Almost twenty years later, I can remember her baby face and her bright eyes.

Now she is a mother and I came to the USA. She enjoys her peaceful life and I have to study everything. I can’t believe that the last phone call was made eight years ago, but it is true.

Life always changes. We just became strangers again. Maybe we both miss the past but we are heading in different directions without hesitation.

XIU KUI NG

One Day in Middle School

When I was in middle school, I had a lot fun with my friends. During break time, we went outside and played. We spoke loudly, laughed and ran around.

One day we were enjoying ourselves when something happened that I still remember. It was a beautiful day. It was sunny, warm and mild. While we were playing outside, a boy was running after a girl, trying to catch her. He was running very quickly. Suddenly, the girl stopped running and the boy ran into her and the girl fell down. Wow! The girl screamed. We looked at her quickly. She started crying, because when she fell down, her knees hit a rock on the ground. The skin was broken and bleeding. We called a teacher and sent her to the clinic.

After that, we didn't run fast again, but played carefully together.

LILY SUN

Bully Classmate

When I was in elementary school, I was very strong and active. Nobody could pick on me. One of my male classmates was being very strong and mean, and he always picked on the female classmates in the class.

One day, when I went to class, the mean boy blocked the door and he didn't let me in. Then I got very angry and pushed him away. Then he tried to fight back, and I chased him around the whole stadium. Finally he ran into the classroom and shut the door. I was angry and pushed the door open very hard and broke the door lock, and my hand was cut and bloodied from the door.

All my classmates were terrified, including the boy. I was still chasing after him. Then he felt afraid. After that, he never bullied me or other female classmates anymore. Finally, no male classmates humiliated female classmates anymore. But a small scar was left on the palm of my left hand. But I felt good, because after that we were very happy every day. Ha! Ha! It made a very deep impression on me.

INGRID VILLANUEVA

School Memories

When I was in elementary school, I didn't have many friends because I was very shy. I remember we had a special teacher. She was older than the other teachers. We studied only six hours a day, and we needed to wear uniforms. We had two uniforms. We had one for physical education: we had to wear T-shirts, pants and sneakers. The other was for regular days.

Every day before class we sang the national anthem and sometimes we had trips. We went to parks, aquatic parks, museums and amusement parks.

When I was little, I had a best friend. Her name was Lorena. When we started school we were both six years old.

When I started high school I moved to another school. We wore uniforms there too and we had many subjects.

QIONG WU

My School Story

When I was ten years old, I studied in my very small town at Shang Shang Elementary School. My teacher's name was Lu Ping. She was my favorite teacher in elementary school. She was from Shanghai, a big city. She was a new teacher. Everybody liked her. Before she came to school, we didn't have music class. When she came, we had singing and dancing class. All the girls were happy.

In my middle school, there always were some bad students who bullied other students. The bad boys especially liked to make fun of the girls. One day in the morning the father of a girl whose name was Zha Fang came to school to talk to the vice principal. He said his daughter had cried last night and she didn't want to go to school anymore. She had told her father that a boy whose name was Zhao Gang had hit her. She hated school. After that the boy got in trouble. But the girl never came back to school again.

My high school was better than middle school. The teachers had experience and were responsible, especially the math teacher. Everyone liked his teaching and everybody answered his questions. Sometimes I miss my teacher.

ALYSSA XIE

My Middle School Trip

When I was in the seventh grade, I had a special school trip. All the students in our school went to a mountain near a lake. Everyone had to carry different things. For example: rice, salt, pots, pork and some fruit. It took about an hour and a half to walk there. On the way, all the girls sang songs together. We were so happy. The boys helped some girls carry heavy things and listened to the songs.

When we arrived there, we were so excited. The mountain was very beautiful! The air was very fresh! We took a lot of pictures. After that, we started to cook lunch. We had six people in a group. Everyone had to do different things. When we were cooking many interesting things happened: someone forgot to bring salt, someone forgot to bring bowls, and someone's face was full of dust. Very funny! We were laughing!

Many people had never cooked before this trip; we just put the rice and other food together and added water and salt. When we were finished cooking, we tried it. Oh! Very delicious! Because we cooked it together and it was our first time cooking outside!

JOYCE YANG

My Elementary School Life

When I was seven years old, I went to elementary school. In my country, elementary school has six grades. My elementary school's name was Hua Qiao Zhong Xin Elementary School. In my elementary school, every grade had two classes. One class had forty-five students. My elementary school was strict. I needed to wear a uniform in elementary school. I had a lot of homework in elementary school. I was a good student in elementary school. I got 95% or 100% on every test, and I did my homework every day. Math was my favorite subject in elementary school. I always got 100% in it.

Mrs. Gao was my favorite teacher in elementary school. Now I think she is retired. My best friend was Yi Hong Zhou in elementary school. We went to school and played games and did homework together every day because we were neighbors. In my elementary school, every spring and fall we took a trip. Sometimes we went hiking, and sometimes we cooked outside.

I was happy in my elementary school. I miss my classmates and teachers.

WEI WEN ZENG

A Profound Experience

When I was in fifth grade, the students in my school learned about agriculture.

It was a wonderful day in spring. I got up at 5:30 am and went to school after breakfast. We were wearing uniforms and took school buses to the countryside. It took us about an hour and a half to get there. There was a very big farm: there were three vegetable fields, two fruit gardens, and an area for the animals. Many tractors were working in the fields. Some farmers were clearing out the weeds and some farmers were feeding the animals. We were so excited and joined them.

But we weren't able to distinguish between the crops and the weeds. Many of us picked the crops and threw them away. Our teachers stopped us when they found out. They let the farmers give us a class about this knowledge. Later, we did it well. The farmers also taught us how to plant the crops and how to feed cows and sheep. That was very interesting. We learned a lot about agriculture.

After work, the farmers cooked lunch with the vegetables we picked ourselves and fresh pork that came from the farm. It was really delicious. I still remember it clearly.

CLASS 3p SCHOOL STORIES

JORGE AYALA

A Fun Trip

When I was in high school, I traveled every year to the Mayan city of Chichen Itza to receive the spring on March 21. It was a very fun trip with my classmates and friends to the most famous Mayan archeological site in Mexico.

Every year the place receives thousands of visitors from many countries. The people wear white clothes to celebrate the light and shadow show that depicts a snake descending the stairs of the biggest pyramid.

But to my friends and I it was just fun. We lived thirty minutes by car from Chichen Itza. On our trip in 1995, we bought beer and snacks to enjoy on the way. For safety reasons the driver didn't drink beer. He only drank soda and juice.

That year ten of us went on the trip. Before we arrived, we stopped in a beautiful natural well to swim for two hours. After that we continued on to Chichen Itza.

When we arrived, we walked around the Mayan city for three hours. We took many fun pictures. In that year nobody used a cell phone or digital cameras. It was pure fun.

At the end of the day, we sat in the garden to enjoy the view of the Mayan pyramid and receive the positive energy that stayed around that place.

That trip was my most fun experience during high school.

NOELIA CARDOSO

A Scary Day in School

When I was in elementary school, I participated in the honors flag team. We marched around the yard of the school in front of the other students.

One time when I was marching, my shoes flew off. I felt so embarrassed because I was far away from them but I continued marching without shoes. When we finished, I picked up my shoes and tried to quickly put them on, but all the kids started laughing. Then my teacher came and spoke with me and gave me a hug. It took me two weeks to get over that thing.

Two months later we went to participate in a competition. Fortunately, nothing happened this time, and we won first place. When we came back the whole school was waiting for us. Everybody clapped for a long time, they were happy. I thought that day was the best day of my life when I was a kid. Sometimes I speak with my daughters about this incident. They enjoy it when I speak about my childhood. That helps them to feel better when they have troubles at school.

SUSANA CHAN

My Mother Hurt Me

When I was in sixth grade, I really enjoyed my school life. My school had a big garden, a big hall, and a snack bar. One day, my mother suddenly went to the school after school finished because she didn't see me come home on time. She wanted to find out what happened.

I was still sitting in the classroom with all my classmates, because in Mr. Lee's class some of my classmates didn't listen to him; they just kept talking and talking. He was angry, so he said that all of us needed to stay in class after school; we couldn't go home.

At that time I was very worried because my mother waited for me to make lunch every day. When my mother saw me, she called me to come out from the classroom and she hit me on my face. All my classmates were laughing.

I felt very hurt at that moment. I hated her. I didn't talk to her for a week, and I also couldn't face my classmates. After two months, my family moved.

JI WEN CHEN

Friends

I had three friends when I was in middle school. May was my classmate. She always made fun of us. She said Qian and I were boyfriend and girlfriend. We said May and Ping were boyfriend and girlfriend.

We did homework together after school. We played games together. We talked about our future. We were a team. We helped when someone had a problem. May liked to talk about boyfriends. She told us new things. I thought some things were true and some things were false. I remember May liked to talk. I liked to listen. She spoke very fast. She read a lot of books.

I think people who talk a lot are sometimes good and sometimes bad. Some people do not like you. But I liked May. Many people did not stay in touch with their classmates. We grew up. I had May's telephone number. She helped me. I can find many classmates now.

WAN CHANG CHEN

Hiking

While I was in elementary school, we went hiking in the fall. It was so fun.

We got food ready in the morning. There were eight people in our group. We needed to pay some money to buy food. We decided to buy chicken wings, eggs, apples and soda.

At 9 am, all the students sat on the playground. Our teacher told us something about safety. Then we started to go hiking.

It was a sunny day. We walked so fast, sometimes we sang some songs. It took us about an hour to get to the hill. But we were not tired because everyone felt happy.

An hour later, we reached the hill. That was pretty. Then every team looked for a place to unpack the bags. We had two things to do. First, we had a game. We needed to climb the hill. There were many plants on the hill. Some of the trees were high. On the top of the hill, there was a flag; whoever touched it first won.

I was so lucky, I touched it first and I won. I got one yuan. I held the flag and looked far. The sky was very blue, the trees were very green, and I was very happy.

We started to cook when the game was over. Some of the students did not cook, so they helped us gather some wood for the fire.

An hour later, we started to eat. We put down some food on a paper and sat down together. Maybe some food was not good, but our mood was very good. We shared our food with each other.

On the way, you could hear some songs and laughing. That was us. That was a good day!

WING MAN CHEUNG

My School Life

I studied in No.11 Middle School of Guangzhou. My school was very big and beautiful. My school life was very colorful and funny, but sometimes it got busy. I liked my school life very much, because it was really enjoyable. I spent the time with my lovely classmates and teachers.

I got up at 6:30 in the morning. Then I ate breakfast. After breakfast, I took the bus to school. I got to school at 7:30 a.m. Then I had to do cleaning with my classmates and then I handed in my homework.

I had six classes each day from Monday to Friday and they were forty-five minutes each. The first class began at 8:00 a.m. The classes I had in school were Chinese, math, English, chemistry, and physical education. My favorite teacher was my English teacher and of course my favorite subject was also English, so I joined English Corner every week. I could speak English with many other students. It was very interesting and exciting. I thought it was helpful for me to learn English well.

School was over at about half past four. After class, the boys played basketball, volleyball, and ping-pong in the playground, and the girls chatted under the tree. Anyway, I enjoyed my school life.

NIAN CI HE

One Thing in My Middle School Life

I grew up in Guangzhou, China. I went to the middle school in our neighborhood, so I could walk to school. It took just ten minutes. It was easy for me.

The second year of middle school, my father's company gave our family a new apartment and we moved there. It was big: we had a big living room and three bedrooms. It was very big and beautiful. But the problem was my school was so far away. I needed to take a bus to get to school and it took me about forty minutes. That was a big problem for me because in the morning a lot of people had to take the bus to school or to work. I never got on the bus easily, so I was late to class almost every day.

My mother suggested, "Ride a bicycle to school, so you can get to school on time." That was a good idea. But I didn't know how to ride a bicycle. Then my father taught me how to ride a bicycle every night after dinner. After a week, I got it. Then my parents bought a new bicycle for me. I remember it was blue, it had a basket at the front, and it was expensive.

The third year of middle school, we had after school from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. One night after school, I walked to the bicycle parking lot to ride my bicycle back home, but I didn't see it. I thought maybe I'd gone to the wrong place, so I walked around the parking lot to find my bicycle. Oh, no! I didn't see it! I lost my bicycle! I was very scared.

No one could help me because my classmates had all left. I didn't have any idea what to do, so I went back to school and I saw the director was leaving also. He was so surprised to see me: "Why are you coming back?" "I can't find my bicycle. I think I lost it," I said. "Maybe you went to the wrong place. Let's go to look for it again, okay?" the director said.

Then we walked around the parking lot to find my bicycle, but we couldn't find it. I lost it. It was very late in the evening. The last bus had left. I didn't have any choice: I rode with the director on his bicycle back to my home.

MINA HOSOKAWA

My High School Story

I was a bad student when I was in high school. I was seventeen years old, and I didn't like to go to school because my father liked new places and new houses, so we moved every two years. This was too much moving for me! So I couldn't make any real friends, and I didn't like to go to school. My favorite teacher was very worried because I never smiled and I slept in all my classes in high school. It was very terrible.

But my favorite teacher gave me many opportunities. He thought of many ways to make school fun. First of all, he became my friend! I felt it was the best for me. He always talked to me. It was very fun. Second of all, he talked to my mom and me on the phone once a week. He talked about many things. It was a very good experience for me. He taught me many things. So he became my best friend. Then I liked to go to school. I got a real friend.

So I changed. I went to school every day. Also I wasn't lazy anymore. He taught me for two years in high school. I went to school almost every day and I made many friends. I still keep touch with them—also my teacher too. My friends are the most important thing in my life, more than my father. I need them, they need me. Always.

NICOLE LI

My School life

I want to talk about my life in school. When I was seven years old, I went to a public elementary school. I was shy. I didn't know how to make friends. When teachers asked questions, I never raised my hand to answer them.

I rarely talked to my classmates. My teacher noticed that, so she made a classmate sit next to me and play with me during the break time, and let me join the school's team. I started fitting in day by day.

But I really hated physical education class. Because in this class, we needed to climb up a pole, but I wasn't able to do that. I couldn't reach the top; I didn't have enough power. The teacher taught more skills and made me do more practice. After class, two of my classmates stayed at school and helped me practice. They held my legs and pushed me up to help me got to the top. After I made an effort, I finally did it. I could do it by myself. I passed the physical exam. I wanted to thank my two friends, so I bought some ice cream for them. We were very happy.

I wasn't so shy anymore. I played with classmates and talked to my teacher if I had questions. I got along with them. That was my elementary school life.

ZHU LI

My School Life

There were two teachers who came from the big city to my school when I was in sixth grade. One of them taught math. He was very strict. The other one taught Chinese. He was kind, nice, funny and handsome.

My Chinese was okay, but I didn't pay attention to my math homework. I handed it in on time; however, I didn't figure out the correct answers. If I had the wrong answer, the math teacher forced me to copy the right answer fifty or one hundred times to punish me. Everybody was scared of the math teacher. My sixth grade was a disaster.

I met a bully when I was in middle school. He was a bad student who didn't do his homework. He picked on classmates, picked on teachers and fought with teachers. Unfortunately, he sat behind me. You can imagine one bully sitting behind you. Terrible.

Every time I listened to the teacher, he kicked me in the ass and used needles to stick in my back. I didn't tell my teacher, but I told my mom. Then my mom told my uncle, who was very angry. My uncle went to the school to warn the bully. My uncle said, "You cannot pick on her. If you do it again, I will tell your parents."

Fortunately, he stopped picking on me.

BAO GUI LIANG

In Elementary School

When I was six years old, I went to Yun Gui Da Jie Elementary School in Guangzhou, China. I was happy because my best friend and I could go to the same school. In school, I saw a lot of girls and boys. They were my neighbors. The school was about twenty minutes away, so we walked to school together.

My favorite subjects were language and music and they were my friend's favorites too. We enjoyed music class. We liked to learn new songs and sing. My best friend was the best student in our class. I asked her when I could not figure out an answer. She helped me find it out and told me the rule.

I almost always handed in my homework on time, but a few times I handed it in late. One time I was punished: I had to clean the classroom after school.

I liked to answer questions in class when I was a kid; it was like a game. If you had good grades at the end of class, you could get a red flower.

We swam three times a week. It was a fun time. The boys and girls were in different lines. We learned the backstroke, freestyle, breaststroke and how to hold our breath.

I remember a fat boy was funny. He always swam slowly and fell behind. Some students made fun of him. The teacher said those students had to practice with him. The teacher said, "Do not make fun of anyone! No person is perfect, but we can improve. Let's try again and again."

In elementary school, I had a favorite teacher: Mrs. Kuang. She followed us for six years. She was very nice and didn't pick on anyone and taught us like her own children. I had a classmate who was poor and a bad thing happened to her. Mrs. Kuang knew that and she brought us to her home to help her. Mrs. Kuang is seventy-six years old. We still keep in touch now.

SHU YAN LIN

Story About My School

I spent five years in elementary school. The school's name was Yang Yu Elementary School. I was bad at math. One time I didn't pass the test. The teacher asked me to find a tutor after school. But I couldn't find one. So the teacher asked me to go over homework with classmates.

Every weekend I had to go to my teacher's home. She helped me review my homework. After two months, my math was getting better. Finally, I got an A. I was so happy.

My middle school's name was Chen Guan Middle School. Every day I went to school by bike. It took me about thirty minutes to get to school. I ate my lunch at school. I studied English, Chinese, math, history, physical education and geography.

One day my mom bought me a small radio from Hong Kong. It was very cute and expensive. I brought it to school. In physical education class every student went to the playground, so I left my radio in my backpack in the classroom.

After I finished exercising, I came back to the classroom. I didn't see my radio. I looked everywhere, but I couldn't find it. I told my teachers that my radio was gone. But nobody saw it. I was so mad. I didn't tell my mother it was lost.

I went to a vocational high school, where I studied English. One time the boy who sat behind me borrowed an English book from me. After a few days, he returned it to me. I found a note inside the book. I opened the note. It said, "Do you want to go to the movies with me tonight?" Suddenly my face turned red, I was so shy. From that day, I never talked to him anymore. Every time he passed me I always hung my head lower. Maybe he knew I didn't like him. And he never talked to me either. After one month, we graduated from high school. We had a big party.

LAN HAN QIU

Untitled

I went to a public elementary school. It was called Na Tai Elementary School. I got up early for school. I went to school with a few girls. We lived in the same village. We were in the same class, too.

I did not like to eat breakfast at school because it tasted awful. I used to buy food to eat in the store and I shared the food with my classmates.

During recess, I liked to play games with my classmates, such as jumping ropes, running races and hide and seek.

One of the worst things was a boy who always picked on me. He made fun of my name. I really hated him.

When I was in middle school, I met a lot of new classmates. There were three classes in a grade. Unfortunately, I was in the same class with the boy who used to bully me. That was a nightmare.

My favorite subject in school was English. I got good grades. I did not have any favorite teacher in middle school, but I had a best friend. Her name was Ying Yu. We rode our bikes to school together. When we had homework, we did the homework and went over it with each other.

I was a bad student in middle school. In history class, I used to sleep during the class. I did not pay attention to the teacher. I fell behind in the class. My parents didn't care about my studies. I wanted to drop out of school, but I had to complete my education.

In high school, I walked to school. The school wasn't far from my home. It took me about fifteen minutes to get to school. That was great.

There was a library in the school. I loved to borrow a few books from the library. I enjoyed sitting in the campus with my classmates. We ate food and discussed things. I had a great time in high school.

YAN RUI

A Great Mother

One weekend when I was in elementary school, my mother asked me to send a message to my brother, who lived with my father and attended school in the town. The message was about his ID. I took the bus to the town. It was about a 90-minute journey from the village where I lived to the town. My mother brought me to the bus station and saw me off.

I arrived at the destination safely. I gave the message to my father and my brother. My brother meant to go home with me, but before we set off, something unpleasant occurred. A fierce quarrel broke out between my father and my brother. It lasted for more than half an hour, and my brother was determined not to go home in the end.

The next day was Monday. I had to go to school as usual, so my father sent me to the bus station alone, where I met a relative and my father requested my relative to take care of me and remind me to get off the bus when it arrived at the destination, because I was only ten, still a child.

Since it was late when I got on the bus, when I arrived at the destination, it was dark. It was a windy winter day. The wind was blowing strongly, but there was still a three-kilometer mountainous road ahead. I dared not continue, and it was not safe for a child to do so. So my relative asked me to go to his home with him.

It was a nightmare for my mother, because she was expecting me to come home. So my mother stood on top of every mountain I used to go to and shouted my name. She waited and waited, but there was no response. Since there were no cell phones in those days, she couldn't contact my father and find out the details. All she could do was shout and look for me everywhere she could imagine. That night, she didn't sleep.

The next day I went back. I told my mom everything that had happened and so did she. Looking at her face, which was swelled because of crying, I was deeply moved. I never knew I meant so much to my mother before. What a great mother!

ANGIE ROJAS

Middle and High School

When I was in middle school, I took the school bus. My school bus picked me up at 5 o'clock, so I woke up at 4 o'clock; but sometimes I woke up at 5 o'clock and my mother shouted but the school bus waited for me for fifteen minutes. In this fifteen minutes I took a shower very fast and ate my breakfast in the school bus.

Three years later, when I was in high school, I had trouble in the school bus with another girl, so I talked with my mom and one week later I stopped taking the school bus. So after that I went to school in a public bus.

One day I was playing with my friends after school. It was raining and we were running very fast and jumping. It was fun. But then I saw a car in the street and I was surprised because it was my father's. He could see me with my friends running in the street. He was very angry with me, and he told my mother and she decided to make me take the school bus again. But this day was a good day.

JIAN TING RUAN

About Me Growing Up

I grew up in a small town named Duan Fen, China. When I was six years old, I studied at an elementary school in my hometown. It was called Ding Jiang Elementary School. I made a lot of friends in the school. We played and studied together. After school, we did our homework at someone's home. I got good grades at that time.

But when I was ten years old, I got bad grades in school because I played video games at a store. I spent more time playing than studying. I first fell in love with one of my classmates. Her name was Gui Yue Guan. I started doing badly at school. I tried to smoke and cut class. My parents didn't have time to take care of me because they worked hard. I finished elementary school when I was twelve years old. I got okay grades by the time I finished.

I went to the middle school in my hometown. It was called Jiang Luan Middle School. I rode my bike to school. It took eighteen minutes to get to school by bicycle. I got very bad grades in middle school. I slept in class. I made fun of others and hit my classmates. My teacher called my parents and told them

about it. My parents knew everything about me at school. My father hit me at home. I finished middle school when I was fifteen years old. I didn't go to high school. I went to the English school.

WEI HONG SHE

My Childhood

When I was in elementary school, there was the Cultural Revolution in China. My teacher's husband, who was also a teacher, lost his job because his parents were in America. In China, if a family had someone who lived outside China, the whole family got in trouble. He was an English teacher, but he couldn't teach. One time our English teacher was sick for a week, so the principal asked him to teach us. He was a very good teacher.

When I was in middle school, I had very good classmates. Sometimes we got in trouble. In class one time we passed a note to each other and the teacher caught us. We got so embarrassed. We never did it again.

But because I was a good student, after I finished a test, I put the answers on a small paper and rolled it up and squeezed it into a pen then handed it to another student. I never got caught. Ha, ha!

Math was my favorite subject. I could do calculations in my mind very fast. I also got first place in my whole class. But now I'm terrible. My mind is so slow. I can't remember things.

One day in gym class, we were practicing doing the long jump, but nobody could do it. The gym teacher told our head teacher and she got so mad. She wanted us to stay after school and show us how to jump. But she failed. She fell on the ground. We felt so bad.

I had a wonderful childhood. We didn't have a lot of homework. Almost every day we played outside after school. Our parents went to work, and nobody watched us. We stayed out until it got dark then went home for dinner. We had so much to do, so much fun. Not like kids now. Now kids stay home and watch TV and play computer games. They just sit still at home. I really miss my childhood.

NU TRAN

A Memory from Elementary School

I remember something that happened while I was in elementary school.

My name is Nu. I was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. I grew up there, and my family lived in a poor neighborhood near the elementary school.

I studied at school. I still remember my teacher in elementary school. She was young, nice and strict. In 5th grade when my teacher was teaching math, I wasn't paying attention to her. She got angry and she hit my right hand five times and she made me stay behind after school for thirty minutes.

I remember my hand was red and in pain, so I cried loudly because I was afraid to stay there. I was hungry, and I wanted to go home. After that she called my parents to come pick me up.

After this, I became a better student and behaved well. I finished elementary school in 1965. I remember that my teacher smiled brightly when I finished school. I promised to her and my parents that I would be a good student in the future.

SOPHIA WANG

A Horrible Feeling

Back to my childhood. The event happened at the elementary school when I was in the second grade in Jinling Midroad Elementary School in Shanghai, China.

One day, my teacher wanted to sit but he missed his chair. Suddenly, I heard his heavy body fall down and it was really loud. I felt the whole floor was shaking in the room. I looked at him. His face turned red and angry. And then I farted. At that moment, in my stomach, the gas was increasing from the mixing of my stomach acid and soybean

ns that I had eaten for breakfast that morning.

Immediately a violent sound came out of my teacher's mouth: "Who is farting? Get out! Stand outside of the school!" His voice scared me. I went through the school gate silently and the ugly weather was cold and rainy, and there was a strong winter wind.

I was expecting him to come to me. I waited and waited but he didn't appear. After school, a school worker brought me my backpack and said, "Go home." I got sick at home. I was afraid of my foolish teacher. He was a hero from a factory because he lost his right index finger. It was crushed by a machine. So the Communist Party assigned him to my school to educate us.

ZUJIA WANG

My Favorite Teacher

Mr. Yan was my favorite teacher when I was in high school. I'll always remember him.

He taught Chinese very well. He always came to class on time. He wore glasses and spoke very loudly. He explained Chinese words very clearly. He taught us how to write a beautiful article and corrected it very strictly.

After class, he liked to spend time with students. Every student liked to tell him their secrets and got his help.

Many years have gone away and I still miss him. More than ten years ago, we classmates went to his house and said good luck to him. He was very happy, but his eyes didn't see anything. He touched our faces although we were old, too.

A few years ago, he died. We were sad. I'll always remember my favorite teacher—Mr. Yan! He always lives in my heart!

JOYCE WEI

Life in My Middle School

When I was thirteen years old, I went to a middle school. It was called Wuhan No. 55 Middle School. It was a second-tier middle school in my city. So in this school I was a good student and I was my teachers' pet.

In my second year of middle school, our school was being renovated, so all the students just had half days to study for one month. Our class just had one afternoon class. So every morning Miss Guo and my classmates went for a run in the other playground near our school. We ran about five kilometers every morning. Si Si was number one in the girl's group, Lin was number two in the girl's group, and I was number three in the girl's group. In that one month, we could make good friends with each other. Maybe other classes just stayed home and rested on their half days.

After that one month, our school was finished being renovated, and all the classmates went to school for the whole day. A few days later, there was a sports meeting in our school. In the long distance race, we three girls got in the top five in our grade: second place, fourth place and fifth place. Miss Guo was very excited, and she gave us three gifts.

We three girls keep in touch almost every day even though we are in different countries. One of us is in Guangzhou, one of us is in Macau, and I am in New York. We can be friends forever.

YUN JIN ZOU

My School Story

When I was a student in high school, I liked to play basketball, ping pong and baseball. The first year, I always skipped some classes to play basketball with my classmates. I told you I was a bad student in the high school, and I was the last in my class. So the head teacher really hated me, and he wanted to call my mother to talk about me in school, but I said, "I don't remember my parents' phone number." After that, they made me stay in class when classes were finished. But they could not stop me from sports. I liked sports so much.

The second year, my class changed teachers. My new head teacher was a strict teacher. I was scared about that. So I skipped classes less often. She was a strict teacher, but she did not get angry with you if you did not make mistakes in her class. Sure, she was a good teacher, but I could not stop loving sports. The third year, I still stayed her in class. With her help, I changed to a good student, I began to study, I began to attend some sports games and stopped skipping classes. I was changed.

When I was a thirteen-year-old boy, I attended middle school. I was still very shy in my class. I did not talk; I just sat there, because I was very fat and short. I felt upset until I met my first girlfriend.

I decided to lose weight. I found a lot of ways to lose weight, and I chose to play basketball at last. Losing weight still was my goal in my middle school, but I was not successful. I just lost 20 pounds in middle school. "But that doesn't matter. I have a girlfriend," I told myself.

Of course this was a wrong way to think. I did not lose weight. I am still not successful today. I do not want to worry about eating, drinking or sleeping. Yes, I was a lazy guy, but now I am not.