

3A MOTHER STORIES

Li Hua Bao

My Mother

My mother is a farmer. She's 60 years old and lives in China. She lives in the countryside. My mother is short and skinny, and she has long gray hair. My mother's a very kind person. She always told us, "You need to be polite to everyone and we must care for each other."

My family had about 12 mu of land, so they were very busy, and they worked hard every day. We needed to plant crops at different times. Besides this, my mother had to plant many different kinds of vegetables and she needed to take care of pigs, chickens, ducks, and cows every day. My mother needed to wake up at 4:30 am to cook breakfast and she didn't go to sleep until 10 pm. She didn't have time to rest, so she wasn't healthy. She had a lot pain in her body.

Right now my mother is retired and takes care of her grandsons in town, and she spends time playing cards with neighbors. But my mother still isn't healthy. I talk with her on the phone when I have time. I just wish her health would be better. I love my mother forever.

Crystal Chen

My Mother

People usually say, "A child with a mother is like a treasure." I agree with that, because I had a good mother.

My mother had short hair, a little heavy body, and a smiling face. She was a happy and hardworking woman. She was a housewife, but sometimes she would do part-time work when the weaving factory needed part-time workers. She cooked breakfast for my grandmother every day. After that she went to the farm to water the plants. During lunch time and dinner time she did arts and crafts, like baskets and plastic flowers. After dinner she did the housework and checked our homework.

My mother was a nice woman. She was friendly and liked to help people. But sometimes when she helped others, she would forget about my brother and me. I remember one time a typhoon was coming. During the lunch break, I saw my classmates' parents bring food to the school, but my mother didn't. I found my brother and we went home together. On the way we saw her hurrying and she carefully went up to us. She said sorry and brought us back home. We were crying and asked her why she was late. She told us a neighbor had broken her leg, so she took the neighbor to the hospital.

When I went to high school, it was in another town. I had to take the bus for almost 20 minutes and transfer to another bus and take that one for another 15 minutes. I came back home once a month. Every time I came back home, she would cook a lot of my favorite food. Some I ate at home, some she gave me to bring to school. My brother complained that she cooked all my favorite food and that she gave me more money. She said, "You eat your favorite food every day and you come back home every day. You don't have time to use money. Ha ha ha!" She knew my brother was just making a joke. She loved us the same.

She was a good mother. We love her and miss her.

Sissy Chen

My Mother

I haven't seen my mother for sixteen years. Of course, we see each other online sometimes. I usually call her once a week.

My mother is the shortest in our family. She likes to talk with others, but I don't like to talk so much. So when I call her, I always listen to her. She lives alone in my hometown because my father passed way ten years ago, and my brother came to America in 2009. She doesn't have a job, but she helps us and other relatives. She took care of my son until he was four years old. She took care of her mother, but my grandma passed way last month. In my hometown, most of my family's relatives moved to America, but they still have houses in my hometown, so my mother manages their houses.

My brother and I don't want my mother to live alone. Last year, we applied for a visa so that she could come to America. But the visa didn't pass. We were very disappointed. We hope to apply again. Now, my mother is old, so my aunt takes care of her sometimes. But my aunt lives in Fuzhou City and that is not convenient. So my brother and I plan to hire a person to take care of her. I hope she is healthy.

I miss you, dear mom!

Song Song Chen

My Mother

I haven't seen my mother for almost four years. Although we talk on WeChat every day, I really miss her.

My mother is a good cook. I love to eat whatever she cooks. When I am hungry, I remember her cooking. So I'm good at eating, not at cooking. When I cook, I call my mom to get help about how to cook.

She is a housewife. She loves children. She liked to spend time with me and my brother when we were children. She always joked with us. She likes to play mahjong. So she played with our neighbors at my home every day for four hours.

She also likes to buy cheaper clothes. I tried to stop her, but she said she just liked the style. She wore the clothes twice then that is it, they disappeared.

When I first left home to work at another city, my mom cried. But I just worked a few days then came back because I missed her. I didn't want to see her sad. I knew she would be worried, and she would miss me.

She likes to help neighbors. They watch movies and dance in a group. Sometimes they go on short trips together. So I'm happy that she is happy.

Xiu Zhen Chen

My Mother

My mother has always had short hair and she is an honest, kind, and hardworking woman. She is very strong.

My mother is a homemaker; she doesn't have another job. Usually, my mother likes to plant vegetables and rice in my hometown. Every morning, my mother goes to buy meat or fish and then she eats breakfast at home. After that she goes to plant vegetables. She waters her vegetables every day, and sometimes she adds plant food to vegetables. My mother plants beans, baicai, cauliflower, winter melon, and many other kinds of vegetables. So our family doesn't buy vegetables. Sometimes my mother sends vegetables to her friends and her sisters. But she doesn't like to sell the vegetables. I remember my mother grew the winter melons very well. Every year, there were about thirty or more. Each was 10 pounds or 20 pounds, and some were 30 pounds. When I wanted to help my mother, I couldn't because they were very heavy, I couldn't carry them.

My mother only likes to work outside. She doesn't like to clean, make lunch or dinner, or wash clothes. My father always did the housework. My mother is very busy every day! But she enjoys her life; she thinks it's a healthy life. Now she still lives in my hometown.

Xiao Feng Dong

My Mother

I don't remember my mother when I was a child, because when I was seven years old, my mother lived in New York. I was raised by my aunt. I only remember in China my mother worked in a train station, because my grandfather worked in the train station. When I first saw my mother, I didn't know she was my mother.

Now I live with my mother. She takes care of me, my sister, and my brother. Every weekend she takes my sister and my brother to extra classes. In her free time she likes to read the newspaper and watches TV. Every summer time my mother takes my sister, my brother, and their school classmates and the classmates' family on a trip around the United States.

Now she is busy. She has many things to do. She works at a fish store every day. Every day she comes home at 8:00 pm then she cooks dinner and looks at my sister's and my brother's homework and tells them what to do. Because in two years my sister will go to college and my brother will go to high school. So this year is important for my sister and my brother. She goes to sleep at 11:00 pm and gets up at 6:00 am, Monday to Friday.

One time I heard my mother's story. She said when she got her first job she had to take the train to another city. She also had to transfer, so she was late for work. The manager said, "You can't be late for work. If you can't be on time, you can't work here." She thought this was funny. She said when she was young she did many things for fun.

Yueh Hong Hsia **I Love You, Mom**

My mom is 70 years old. She has short gray hair, and she is the same height as me. Her face is a little long and she has wrinkles. Her favorite hobby is watching TV.

She lives with me and she helps me take care of my daughter. She likes keeping the house clean. When she wakes up, first she goes to the kitchen to wash the dishes and chopsticks and table. Her favorite food is crab and sweet fruits.

My mom was only in school for a few years, but she can read the newspaper and she likes to read about politics and celebrity gossip. My mom never works; she stays at home and takes care of my family.

She is a thrifty person. If you give her money, she keeps it and saves it.

My mom's religion is Buddhism. Every month for two days, she needs to eat only vegetables and read Buddhist books. My mom believes this world has ghosts.

My mom has been in New York for five years. She can say "Hello" and that is it. She doesn't have any friends in New York. Every day she talks on the phone with her sister for an hour. After my daughter turns 12 years old, my mom will go back to China. I hope she enjoys her life in China.

Esther Li **My Mother**

My mother was born in 1938. She had three mothers. The third mother was hers. She had a total of twenty-one brothers and sisters. She was number seventeen. She had bright eyes, a pink face, and a flat nose. Everything matched well. I think just the nose was not perfect.

When she was in high school, she had to quit the school because that was during the Civil War. The government grabbed all of her father's property, so my grandfather became very poor. Everyday government people marched him out into the street. He passed away in this action. After one year, my grandmother also passed away—because she missed her husband, my mother told me. Therefore I never saw my grandfather and grandmother.

When my mother was 16 years old, she had to work for her livelihood. She had to raise her two younger sisters and one brother. She told me that time was very difficult and her heart was very sad. I think this is fate. You can't control it or foresee it.

She married my father in 1960. She had two sons and three daughters. I rank fourth. My mother was serious. She really cared about our education, and she really loved us. She always made good food for us.

When I moved to the United States, I missed her very much. She was a good mother. She passed away in January 2018. My mother in my impression was all good.

Elaine Liang **My Mother**

My mother is short, average weight, and has short hair. She isn't old, but she doesn't like to wear pretty clothes, so she looks older than her age.

She came to New York with me. We live together. When she was in China, she worked in a factory. Her first job here was working in a restaurant. I don't remember all of the details. I think she worked there for a long time. After this job she worked as a home attendant. She didn't like to do this job because she doesn't like to take care of people. She also doesn't like to take care of kids. She has no patience. She worked this job for a short time. Right now she still works in a restaurant. She works hard. The restaurant is very busy. I think she likes this job because the time goes fast when it's busy.

She has a day off on Sunday. She goes food shopping on that day. Sometimes she goes to drink tea with her friends and co-workers. She doesn't like to go clothes shopping; she just goes when she needs to. She thinks it's tiring to go clothes shopping. She likes to watch TV, so she spends most of her free time watching TV.

My mother's life is easy.

Dan Lin **About My Mom**

My mom is 55 years old. She has short hair and beautiful eyes. She has two sisters and two brothers. She is youngest one. When she was a child, people usually weren't rich, so they did a lot of farming to support their family. Their life was hard.

My grandparents had a family business making tofu. In her free time my mom helped her parents sell tofu. My mom enjoyed selling the tofu. She could go around the village, see new things, hear new things.

In my memory my mom did a lot of work, take care of children, every day did the wash...

My mom was a housewife for many years, but now she works in a Chinese buffet. Her job is watching the buffet bar, telling the chef to cook more food, and clean the buffet bar.

Jing Xiong Mei **My Mother**

My mother was born in the countryside. She didn't have a lot of education. So she is just a simple and innocent woman. But she is kind. Maybe she is not good at teaching kids. She just told us what things we shouldn't do and controlled my activities. She never explained why; she just said no.

My mother is short and has short hair. Her dressing style is just the same as a lot of countryside women. They don't know about fashion; they just care about economy. My mother was a hard worker when I was a kid. She was very busy every day. She needed to do housework and farm work.

She is a great woman. Because our living environment changed, she didn't need to do a lot farm work. Then she loved to pay mahjong and became lazy.

Now she is a home attendant. After she moved to the United States, she is still working. She doesn't like to be bored at home. She works five hours every day and that job is very easy. She just cooks and walks a dog. She likes to spend her spare time walking around. She usually walks to two or three supermarkets every day. Now she just is a leisurely woman.

Xiu Kui Ng **My Memories**

My mother was a very kind person. She had short hair, and she was average height and skinny. She loved her children very much. When I was young, we didn't have a lot of food for daily life. My mother always saved food for us, and she didn't eat much. I thought this was why she couldn't get stronger. She always talked with us calmly, and she never yelled at us even when we did something wrong.

I remember one summer, the weather was very hot. We used to cook vegetable soup in this season. One day, I put winter melon, meat, and some beans into a pot to cook soup. It took a little time to cook, and I didn't stay to watch it. When it started to boil, I left the stove to do my homework. But I still wasn't finished with my homework when some bad smell came to my nose. Oh no! My soup! I went to look at the soup immediately. When I opened the pot cover, the water was dry and the pot had turned brown. I was worried. I thought I would get punished. I was nervous.

When my mother came home, she smelled that, and I had to try to explain. But she said, "Don't be afraid. You did a good thing to help me. Next time you should be more careful."

Ya Si Qiu **Lucky Mother**

My mother is nothing special. She was born into a small family; she has one brother and two sisters. She was born in the countryside, but grew up in a city. She had some parasites in her stomach when she was a baby, so she was weak and thin. My grandmother was very worried that she would die. But fortunately she survived. When I was a child, my mother always told me this story.

She told me other things too. The year she was born, my grandfather got a raise and sent some money to my grandmother. Before that, he didn't have money to send to his family. My mother was proud of herself about this thing. I think she is lucky because for several years my grandfather had an apartment near his workplace in the city, so my grandmother moved with her four children and then my mother started her city life. She could go to school, and she didn't need to carry water in a heavy bucket. But her family was poor so she only got a little education. She always tells me, "If you can go to school, you are lucky." But I didn't think so when I was a child. You had to sit in the classroom all day, you had to take tests, you had to get up early... but now I agree with her.

When she got married with my father she became happy. My father took care of her very well. When I was born, she didn't take care of me a lot; she just did a little housework and went to work. We had less time to meet and I looked forward to playing with her. I can't remember some details, but I felt so happy when she took me to the park.

Now we are close because she understands me. She always buys some food which I love. Sometimes I get angry, and she knows what things make me angry and she can make me happy again. Now that I've grown up, I want to take care of her. I hope she has a really happy retired life.

Julia Song
My Mother

I remember when I was a little girl about seven years old, my mother was very beautiful. I remember she was tall and she was very thin. She had big eyes, and she was fun because she told stories to me and my sister and brothers.

I remember she took care to clean the house every day. She made breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day, and my mother took care of me, my sister, and brothers.

My mother was capable and neat. She was patient, because my sister was very noisy and cried every day, but my mother never asked my sister to stop crying. I remember sometimes my sister would cry for three days. My mother got very angry, and my mother cried too.

I remember my mother was sick every year. When I was eleven years old, my mother died.

Valikhan Tuleshov
My Mother's Story

My mother was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan on January 12, 1938. She was from a rich and famous family. Her father was a comptroller in the National Transport Company. Her mother died when my mother was four years old. So, my grandfather remarried. His new wife took care of my mother for about ten years.

When my mother graduated from high school, she continued her education at the Zoo-Technics University. There my mother met my father, and during their last semester I was born in Almaty, too.

Before my mother went to university she was a gymnast, and in university she became a leader of gymnastics. She became a champion of Almaty and got a Master's Degree in gymnastics.

After university my mother and my father got jobs near Almaty in a big national farm company. They had a second son—my brother. They worked hard.

My mother was a strong and smart woman. She controlled us and helped us to study at school. My mother loved us. And now my brother and his family live with her in my hometown.

In 2015, my father died. But my mother didn't stay alone. My brother's family helps her, takes her to relatives' parties, and every day they worry and carry about her.

Now that my mother is 80 years old, I wish her all the best, health and happiness. I know she is worried about me. But I say to her, "All will be good!"

My mother had a difficult life. She gave us life, and she protected us all time. Today she has many grandsons and granddaughters. And I think she is happy.

Sunmi Wei
My Mom

"Feifei, I go to school," I said when I was a student. "Feifei, I go to work," I said when I was a worker. "Feifei, I am so happy!" I said when I got a good grade or got my first job. "Feifei, I am so sad today," I said when I had some problems in my life. Feifei is my mom; she is my best friend too. Feifei is her nickname. I love to call her by her nickname because her friends do it. She has short, straight black hair. She is fat but she is active. She loves to travel but she doesn't like to spend money.

Feifei is strict about my studies and my life. I remember when I was a high school student, it was New Year and I had a date with my classmates to celebrate at midnight. Feifei was angry with me. She called me many times but I didn't want to reply to her. When I got home, I was locked outside. Then I rang the doorbell but nobody answered me. I sat on the ground near the door all night. At 8:00 in the morning, Feifei opened the door. When I saw her, I cried. I felt sorry because she looked worried and upset. I couldn't sleep all night and she couldn't sleep either. I never did something like that again.

I am living in the USA now but we still keep in contact. I chat with her on WeChat every day. We always share interesting things in our lives. I love my mom.

Anna Wu
My Mother

I love my mother. In my opinion, she is a nice person and hardworking. She is always smiling. She is average height and fat, and she has short hair. She was a chef at Panda Express. When she has free time, she uses the computer to learn English and she grows vegetables in the backyard. She always shares her vegetables with neighbors.

Right now she is retired. She lives with my brother's family, and takes care of his daughter. I usually call my mother once a week, and when I have free time I go to Boston to visit her. She makes a lot of food for us, and she makes me eat a lot because I'm too skinny, and I work too hard. She tells me to put some nuts in my backpack, so when I feel hungry I can eat something. In every mother's opinion, their son or daughter is always a kid. They always want you to eat well or enough.

I really love my mother; also, my mother loves me.