

My Language

by Janelly Angulo

Hi, my name is Janelly Angulo. I'm eleven years old. My parents are from Mexico, and in Mexico, people speak Spanish. I was born in Modesto, California, but I live in Waterford. My family and I have been living in Waterford for seven years. I'm the oldest child in my family. I'm proud to say that I speak Spanish and English well.

I know how to speak Spanish because my parents have spoken Spanish to me since I was a baby. I didn't speak English when I started school but I immediately learned the language in Kindergarten. Since I am bilingual when we go to the doctor's office and the doctor doesn't know how to speak Spanish, I'm able to translate for my mom because she does not know how to speak English. I also have to translate for her when someone calls her on the phone, and they don't speak Spanish. I write down what she wants me to say. Then I translate it into Spanish. I also have to translate for my mom when someone calls her on the phone and they don't speak Spanish.

If I didn't speak Spanish, it would affect me tremendously because I wouldn't be able to communicate with my grandparents or aunts who live in Mexico. It is great to be able to speak to my family in their native language. If I didn't speak Spanish, it would hurt me because I wouldn't be able to communicate with my family members who only speak Spanish. Since I speak both languages I've been able to help my fifth grade teacher, Mrs. McClure, at Waterford Middle School translate for a Spanish-speaking student in Spanish who came from Mexico. Being bilingual has helped me be a very good translator. I've been able to translate for him, and I've been able to help him in every subject.

I've been able to help him with Math, Science, and Social Studies. I even help him sound out words. On the first day of class he was very nervous. He even started to cry because he didn't know anyone in the school. I remember him crying all day long. Mrs. McClure comforted him and told him he would have many friends, and that some of the students in the class spoke Spanish, and that they would be able to translate for him and they would be his friends.

I am very proud of my two languages which are Spanish and English. I don't need a translator because I'm fluent in both languages. I'm glad that I'm able to help my mom translate and that I've also been able to help my teacher in the classroom. I'm proud of being Latina and speaking Spanish is part of my culture; I'm proud of who I am.

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