

**English Learning Center - Minneapolis, MN**

Summary, May 14, 2001

<p>We started our class with introductions. We said our name.</p> <p>We said where we were born. We talked about what we like to read. It is hard for us to say what we like to read. We want to learn English better. We want the teachers to give us something to read that will help us to learn. We also want to learn about life in the U.S.</p> <p>But we like stories that talk about our culture. It is easier to learn to read English when we like the story. Stories about women like us will help.</p>	<p>While I am Learning English, I would like to read about</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Our class is about learning about memoirs. A memoir is like memory. We remember our stories and write them down. A memoir is a story of life. We will begin to write our own memoirs. Memoirs can focus on many things or one thing. They can be about our whole life until now or they can be about small parts of our life.</p> <p>We read some memoirs written by women from Somalia. They were interesting and enjoyable. We did not know about traditions in Somalia. Now we understand them better.</p>	<p>If I want to write a memoir of my life, this is the part of my life I would like to talk about:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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<p>We read a memoir about the weather in Somalia. We talked about how the weather in our countries is similar and different. This story also talked about why the family left Somalia.</p>	<p>I left my country because:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>We read a memoir about a bungalow. The houses in Somalia are made of grass. They are called <i>aqal Somaali</i>. We talked about different kinds of grass. We learned that the <u>auntie</u> is an affectionate way to say <u>aunt</u>.</p>	<p>In my country the houses are made with</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>We read a memoir about education. This woman talked about how she went to school as a little girl. Sometimes, she also went to religious school to learn the Koran.</p> <p>We talked about our education. In the U.S., we go to school to learn English. It is different here because we are adult. In Tibetan culture, married women would be teased if they went to school.</p> <p>We learned about quote marks (""). This is the short way to say quotation marks. We use quote marks when we want to show a person talking, like this. One woman said, "In India, I did not go to the school. My father taught me to read the Tibetan language."</p> <p>Another woman said, "In Vietnam, we did not read. There was war. We worked hard. We did not have time to read."</p>	<p>I want to learn English because</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Some of the things I would like to read are</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

We read a memoir about grandparents. This story told how grandmothers care for their grandchildren. She takes the oldest granddaughter to live her.

We discussed how this story is similar in our countries. The children live with their parents until they marry. Then the son and his wife live with his parents. In Vietnam and Tibet and Mexico this is the same. But sometimes the son lives with his wife in their own house. In Mexico, when the children marry, they might live with the sons parents or the daughters parents. Sometimes it will depend on who has the rooms. When the parents get old, they come and live with the son or with the daughter. In Tibet and Vietnam, they do not like to put parents in the nursing home.

This is different in the U.S. Children move away from their parents at age 18 even if they are not married. Hong thinks this is good especially if the family is rich. In a rich family, the children do not study. They are lazy and they do not work. They want their parents to take care of everything for them. So it is good for them to move out at 18 because they will learn to take care of themselves. This is not the same for poor families. The poor children work harder. They study for their education.

In Tibet, it is very hard for the husband and wife to separate. The daughter goes back to her parents' and it causes shame. Her parents friends will tease them.

When I lived in my country, I lived with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the U.S., I live with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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This Appendix is the summary from the first conversation circle with women learners at the English Learning Center in Minneapolis, MN.

It is an appendix for Dissertation Project titled:  
*Women's Literacy Power:  
Collaborative Approaches to Developing and Distributing Women's Literacy Resources*

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