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“Life Obstacles”

A lot of people in this world have encountered very hard challenges just to accomplish their goals. Some of them give up, very easily, and some of them don't. Everything depends on their needs. Most of the challenges that we have to face in our life are very tough. Since I was a little child, I faced many challenges in Mexico. However, they were not as hard as the ones that I had to face in the United States. In the U.S.A I faced three challenges that I think were the hardest ones to overcome.

I have three characters who inspire me the most: Andres Rico, Carlos Mendoza-Bombela and Juanita Sanchez. I admire them because we have the same background, and they have been successful in this country. Their strength and their efforts that they have shown gives me force to keep going no matter how hard the challenges are. The challenges that the three characters faced were similar to mine. First, Carlos Mendoza was forced to drink wine in order to calm him down so he could face the border patrol. I think that his parents did it because they want him to be in the United States so he can have a better life, and I think the same way of my parents when they decide to cross the border with me.

Crossing the desert was one of the biggest challenges that I have faced. This challenge was very hard for me because I had heard that a lot of people die in the desert. At that time I didn't have any choice because I was still a little child. My parents decided to come to the U.S.A so they took me with them. When my whole family was at the border line, I was so scared that I barely could walk. Every single one of us carried a water bottle because the journey was going to be very long. The (coyote) leader had told us that we had to walk fast because we could run out of food and water. At that moment I had a bad feeling because most of us we were children and there were few adults. We entered in the desert at 11 p.m. We walked the whole night until morning. We walked for three or four hours then we stopped to rest. And the same process was for the whole day and night. The next day the coyote started getting mad because we stopped a lot to rest. Then my parents started yelling at the coyote because the coyote wanted the children to walk as fast as an adult would. After that discussion we started walking again. I was doing all my effort to make the pace that the coyote wanted us to go, but we didn't get to our destination on time. Our plan was to be in Eloy in four days, and now we had been five days in the desert. We ran out of food and water. We walked for two days without water or food. I thought that we all were going to die because it was a very hot summer. My mouth was very dry for the lack of water, and I was very tired and dirty. When we completed seven days in the desert, I thought that I was going to die because I couldn't walk anymore for a long distance. But I made it to Eloy, Arizona by the help of God. Today all those sufferings are still stamped in my mind. Before my parents took me to the U.S.A, I thought that crossing the border was going to be my only challenge that I would have to face. To my surprise I realized that I had to face another challenge in the school where I was going to enroll.

When I entered in Lincoln Junior High, my new challenge was to learn English,

especially the vocabulary. I had the same trouble as Andres Rico: having trouble of understanding new words. It can make your life harder. My first day of school was very hard for me. I remember that one day I was sitting alone in the classroom and I saw a group of boys approaching me. So I was sitting there, very nervous because I didn't know how to speak their language. When they got where I was sitting, they started asking me questions, but I didn't understand them. When they noticed that I didn't know how to speak their language, they started treating me badly. They would push me or make fun of me or when I tried to speak their language. They just laughed at me because I didn't know how to pronounce it right. However, I overcame this problem with the help of my English teacher who taught me how to speak English. She helped me to learn new vocabulary words, and she used different method to help me learn the language fast. Ms. Peavyhouse was my favorite English teacher at Taft Junior High because she always taught me with patience. She always encouraged me when I was sad, and she taught me not to give up my dream. That is why I decided to go to college. I wanted to see my dream come true.

Before I enrolled in Taft College, I realized that my parents will not be able to pay for my classes because they don't make enough money. In order for me to keep going with my studies, I have to work and study. I have been working in the fields since I was a child the same as Juanita Sanchez did. But right now my work is more important to me because my future depends on it. I work in the fields with my parents in order to pay for my classes and books. My parents work to buy food and to have a roof over our heads. We work all the season in the grapes. When the season of the grapes is over, we start working in the mandarins. These challenges that I'm facing every day is very hard for me. For this hard life that I'm going through, sometimes I feel hopeless and decide to abandon my studies. But when I watched the video of "Camp to Campus," it grabbed my attention when Ricardo Morales said, "Everything that you do will be rewarded in the future." These words encouraged me to stand up at four o'clock in the morning to go to work. First I would get up to brush my teeth, then I would go to the kitchen to help my mom to pack our lunch. Next, we leave the house without saying goodbye to anybody. I know what it feels when a person has to get up every morning, especially to do a job that he/she doesn't like. I would like "to have a job that I love doing, not a job that I have to do," as Ricardo Morales said. I know that I can reach my goal by trusting in myself and by "having the passion," as Elizabeth Munoz said.

People will continue to have challenges as long as they live. Sometimes we have to face our challenges alone, and sometimes we need the help of others people to accomplish our goals. Robert F. Kennedy expresses it best "Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not." The challenges in my life are the path to achieving my dreams.