

COLLECTION OF ESSAYS

CLASS XI (NATURAL SCIENCE)

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MY LIFE

By Harumi Aini



It was 2 years ago and I was sitting in the 3rd grade of junior high school, when my father told the whole family that he was taking a test for placement of agricultural attaché in Belgium, and he was accepted. So, maybe we should leave Indonesia and move to Belgium. I was very shocked to hear that. I have never expected that we could stay abroad again, because we had lived in Germany for several years when I was a little child and I spent my childhood there.

Back then we were living in Gottingen, a small town in Germany. I went to the kindergarten there, and I also went to the elementary school, Bruder Grimm Schule, for about 3 years. My two little sisters were born in Gottingen where my father accomplished his master and doctoral degree there. After about 6 precious years in Germany, my mother, my two sisters and I were going home to Indonesia and we were staying in my grandmother's house in Bandung. My father was still in Germany, because he had to finish his study there. In Bandung, I went to an Islamic school, SDI Asih Putera. Actually, I was in the 3rd grade of elementary school at that time, but the principal said that I have to go to the 2nd grade because of the differences of the lessons in Indonesia and Germany.

I was just staying for about a year in Bandung, then my father came home and we moved to Bogor. In Bogor, I went to SDIT Ummul Quro, a full-day school. I was spending a really great time at that school. I learned a lot of things, I grew up to be a little teenager, and I enjoyed my time with my best friends. Gratefully, my marks were always good at that time and I commonly got the first rank in my class. I think, it's because I love to study at that school and my teachers were great, and I will never forget them.

Three years in Ummul Quro, it was time to step to the next level. I took the final examination, and I passed the elementary school with pretty good marks. I continued my study to SMPN 1 Bogor or known as Spensa. At the beginning, it was hard for me to study at that school, because it is the most favourite school in my city and I had to compete with all the best kids coming from all over elementary schools in Bogor. There were lot of differences and lot of new things. The teachers were so weird, they gave us lot of homework, lot of school assignments, and I couldn't understand the lessons well. But, I didn't need much time to adapt with. I started to make a lot of friends and I also joined the student council, OSIS, in my school. I could not tell how much I love to be involved in OSIS. The organization had become such a really important thing in my life. I also got many experiences through my participation in scout movement.

Best friend is a very important thing for me. I really love my best friends. We are all 11 person; Ghina, Dc, Fia, Moo, Ayu, Alit, Susuk, Mpus, Deedee, Jo, and I. We used to call ourselves, 11 hoshi. Hoshi in Japanese means star. We hope that

we could always be together and keep shining like a star. We were all in the same class when we were on the 2nd grade, except Dc. But unfortunately, we were not in the same classes anymore in the following year. The 3rd grade was a very hectic year for us. We did study a lot, just to face the final examination. We were all dreaming of the same high school, the best high school in my city, SMAN 1 Bogor or usually called Smansa which is located next to Spensa. It's kind of funny that Spensa and Smansa have to share the schoolyard, because our school is located on the same area and there is no much space left. It seems that Smansa is close, but actually we have to struggle hard to get into Smansa. After months of struggling, finally we got the result of our final examination. Thankfully, we all got great marks, and it was just like a miracle that we could all together accepted in the same school, our dreaming school, Smansa. Smansa, we're coming!!

To enter the senior high school world was very exciting for me. I didn't need much time to begin loving this school. I really love this school, even when I haven't been accepted in this school. I'm not a type of person that could just stay without doing anything; I want myself to be useful for others. I want to spend my teenager's life with doing as much positive activities that I can. I like to have many experiences that can be good lesson for me to face this life. I joined DKM, an Islamic extracurricular activity. Because singing is my hobby, I also joined Vocsa, which is the acronym of *Voice of Smansa*. Besides, I also joined the student company in my school, Cepot's (Company of export-import product in Smansa), and absolutely I really wanted to be involved in OSIS.

To be a part of OSIS is not an easy thing in Smansa. The freshmen, who are interested in OSIS, should follow a very tight selection. There is a limited quota for the first graders, so they who can join OSIS are only the selected ones. At first I felt not confident because I had to compete with many other talented kids. I just walked on everything and unpredictably, I was appointed as the second secretary in OSIS. I had never realized the capabilities in myself. I was granted a leadership responsibility in this school when I was just in the first grade! It was very challenging for me. Since that time, I learned much about a good leadership, managing a good teamwork, tolerant to others, managing my time, setting my priorities, solving problems in any kind of situations, being a good figure to others, and the most important thing is the togetherness that I got from my beloved OSIS. OSIS had made my life colourful and much meaningful. So many things happened during my one and half year in Smansa. It was just the happiest time for me when I have to leave them all. Alhamdulillah, at that time, I felt like my life was perfect, I had reached and held everything I wished and dreamt.

Nothing to say, but I hate this! Why I had to leave it all? When I felt cosy with all of this; but then I had to leave everything. It was too sad to remember and to tell about the hard times before I left Indonesia. There are lots of changes in my life, but this time seemed to be the hardest!

Life must go on, so I took the decision and I'm here now! I'm a student of *Sekolah Indonesia Nederland* (SIN) now. I'm just a seventeen year old girl, who is trying to build up her new life. I am more than a ten thousand kilometres away from my beloved Smansa, and my beloved friends. Yap, hard at the beginning, but I have to be a tough girl and I have to go through all of this. I face many new things here, and somehow I begin to like it. However, it is my life! Again, I praise thanks to Allah for such life like this!

FIVE DAYS IN THIMUN 2008

Nadia Rizky



THIMUN stands for The Hague International Model United Nations, an annual conference that started on 28th of January 2008 and ended on 1st of February 2008. THIMUN this year was its 40th anniversary in which occasion SIN (Indonesian School in the Netherlands) represented Seychelles and I was assigned in the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly (Economic and Financial).

On the first day, my friends who stay in the dormitory and I left for the conference venue at 8 am. We walked to the bus stop and waited for the bus. It came at 8.19 am. We arrived at THIMUN's site (World Forum Convention Centre), near our Embassy. On first day we did lobbying. I did it in the Oceania Foyer room. During the lobbying session we talked about the resolution to be debated on the next day. At 11.30 am we had a break for lunch and at 3 pm there was opening ceremony. I couldn't see the opening ceremony directly because I didn't have the ticket to enter to the special hall for the opening ceremony. We left the conference at 5 pm.

On the second day my friends and I carried out similar activity in the morning. According to the schedule, all General Assembly's delegates gathered in the World Theatre room for plenary session. In the plenary session, every ambassador or head of delegation from each delegation delivered their opening speeches. When Seychelles had the turn for the opening speech, Amrullah as the Ambassador spoke in the podium. After the plenary session, we had lunch until 2 pm. After that I went back to the Oceania Foyer room for further debate or discussion on the draft resolutions. There were 5 issues in GA 2 (2nd Committee). On this day GA 2 just debated 2 resolutions and both of them failed. We finished at 5 pm.

On the third day we continued the debates. This was a fully-debated day. The first GA 2 session took 4 hours, and I returned again at 2 pm after lunch to start new debate which elapsed until 5 pm. It was interesting because the debate was very lively and heated. The activity in the fourth day was similar to that of the third day.

The fifth day was the last day in THIMUN. In the morning, we debated until 11.30 am and then we got an early lunch until 12.15 pm. And subsequently at 12.15 pm all General Assembly's committees had the plenary session in the World Theatre room. In there we talked about the resolutions that had been passed from each committee.

The most unforgettable issue was that on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. A delegate floated a resolution suggesting that Israel was wrong. But the Israeli delegation refused the suggestion and made it clear that any delegation voted for the proposed resolution they were terrorists. However, finally that resolution was passed through voting procedure.

The plenary session finished at 4.30 pm and continued with the closing ceremony. The closing ceremony was cool. All ambassadors brought the country flag to the stage followed by an attraction by a group of drummers. It was fun.

I think THIMUN is a good experience. We can meet a lot of people from other countries and increase our English proficiency.

MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES AT SIN

Amrullah Rafioeddin



Hi. How are you doing? I hope your fine. First, let me introduce myself. My name is Amrullah Rafioeddin, I'm 17 years old (born on 16th January 1991). I'm sitting in the 2nd grade of SMA IPA and 'v been studying at SIN since the year of 2000 (almost 8 years now). At this opportunity I would like to tell you a little bit about my most memorable experiences at SIN.

Every school year has been a new year with lots of new and different experiences for me. This is because every year new kids join SIN and other kids (old kids) leave SIN returning to our country of origin, Indonesia. It sounds kind of hard, but actually it isn't, I'm already getting used to this situation and I'm always open for a new year filled with a new experience. No kid actually stayed longer than 4 years at SIN; nevertheless, I still keep in touch with them. As I told it before, every year has its own and unique experience. Because I've experienced many typical experiences at SIN and if I have to choose my most memorable experiences between all those experiences, then I would pick my experience at SIN when I was at the 4th grade of SD, the second grade of SMP, and the first grade of SMA. Let me tell you about those experiences in the next paragraphs.

It was the month November, year 2000. I still remember that time. That month I was just coming at SIN (just leave my old school – a Dutch one) and my brother had already joined SIN back then. It was a small school filled with small classrooms. My classroom was located at the top floor of SIN where it was filled with all the kids of SD (first grade, second, third, etc). The first time I went to SIN, I had to introduce myself in front of the classroom. Then I chatted with my new classmates and my new teachers. The first thing that I noticed here was that every kid was kind for me. All of them were looking for my books and asked me a lot of questions. I sat with 10 children in the class. When I had been good friends with them and knew them very well, my new adventure began. Our class was the noisiest class of the whole school. We always worked together, played together, laughed together; we even keep playing together thru the lessons. Yeah, our class was very naughty back then. We kept disturbing other classes and teachers kept being mad at us, ha-ha. But hey, it actually doesn't matter, as long if we do our exams and homework good. After my 4th grade of SD, my other two years at SD were different because most of my classmates went back to Indonesia. Then it was SMP, the first year of SMP was also fun but the second year was more fun.

It was the month August, year 2004. I just sat at the second grade of SMP. At the second grade of SMP, 4 new kids joined me and neither one stayed with me from SD. All of the new kids had their own personality. There were 2 boys and 2 girls. Sometimes we were serious, but sometimes we were very noisy, it depended on which teacher we got. We always made our homework together, and were very good friends. The other boys and I were like the three musketeers, ha-ha. Every time when one of us didn't make his homework, the others didn't make it either. And when the teacher asked for our homework, we just used smooth talking and then the teacher didn't even notice. Yeah, it was a fun time back then. After the second SMP, 2 of the kids left, and after the third grade of SMP (after the final

exams), one kid left again. Then I sat in the first grade of SMA with just one classmate, but he also left after 1 month.

Then finally it was the month September 2006, the time when I had just sat at SMA, the first grade. One month after my other classmate left. It's the year that I remember the most. At this year I've made a major achievement. From the noisiest class my class changed to the quietest class of the entire school. Besides that, I also got the first ranking of the class with the highest grades. All teachers just paid attention to me. This all happened cause I was the ONLY KID in the class! Ha-ha. No new kids joined my class for the whole entire year when my other classmate left! Never did I experience this before in my entire life. But it didn't matter, as long I took the first place! Ha-ha. It was also good because the teachers paid more attention to me and it made me understand the lesson more. It was not a very fun year, but it was just fun. Even though I was the only kid of the first grade of SMA; I had many other friends of other classes. After this interesting and major achieving year, the second grade of SMA was following after this. 2 months I was alone again at the first semester, but after that 2 kids joined me till now (the second semester) at the second grade of SMA IPA. I choose IPA because I like Biology more then Economics. I don't know what experience will get after this year or the next year. I hope its fun and I hope I still got classmates. Well, now you know about my most memorable experiences at SIN. Maybe if I got another joyful experience, I will write another essay about it. But till then, Arivederci and see you later!