

Lesson 11

A. Pre-Reading Preparation

At one time or another, you have probably felt homesick. Maybe it was when you were away from home for the first time, or maybe you feel homesick right now because you are in a different country. Being away from the people and things you know and love can be difficult. It is especially difficult if you don't know anyone or don't speak the language in the country where you are. This story is about someone in just that situation. Somehow, she finds a way to communicate without words.

1. Have you ever felt homesick? When? Where? What exactly were you feeling?
2. Did something trigger the feeling of homesickness? How did you cope with it?
3. How many ways can you think of to communicate with someone from another country?

B. Reading

Read the following text twice. If you do not understand certain words, try to deduce their meanings from the contexts in which they appear. Check the vocabulary list for quick reference, then look up the words that are new to you in a dictionary for a more comprehensive understanding.

Supper with My Korean Neighbor

Anna Jane Ziegler

- 1 ***I*** ***t*** has been said before, but experiencing it myself has made me want to say it again: a smile can cross all language **barriers**.
- 2 I recently moved from Canada to a small city on the south coast of South Korea to work as an English teacher. My first few weeks in Chinhae were challenging. I **struggled** to deal with many new experiences all at once, and I struggled with the loneliness that came from not being able to **communicate** with the people around me. I knew only one fluent English speaker other than myself – my **employer**. So, having left my family and friends far away on a different continent and having moved to a city in which I was the only foreign English teacher, I felt a bit **shaken**.
- 3 At the grocery stores, I could not read the food packages and certainly did not know how to ask for help. I thought I had bought salt one night, only to discover that it was sugar when I opened it later. Such little **frustrations** began to add up and I soon felt **homesick** and tired. I **longed** for some **familiarity**--familiar food, familiar sounds, familiar anything!
- 4 One night, after a long day at work (the students had been crazy!), I was feeling **particularly weary**. I was not looking forward to cooking for myself and settling into my lonely apartment for the evening. Fortunately, that night, I didn't have to.

(END OF SAMPLER)