

A New Life

by Alicja Figiel, 9th grade

“Goodbye”, she said with a sad voice. “I already miss you”

And so she did.

“Here is a little gift for you. I hope it will remind you of me, you know?”

Like she would ever be able to forget. Even though she was already seven years old, she couldn't hold back her tears. She knew that she'd miss her friends and teachers. But she was also young and excited for the new life. After all, moving to another country is a big deal, especially if you hardly know the language the people speak there.

But her parents already made the decision. Just her, her mom and dad were going to move to Germany the day the school semester was over, which is the day this story starts.

She tried to imagine what her new life would look like on the way to her new home.

She dreamt of finding a friend, who'd accept her despite her not knowing German. Then, she could learn everything really fast. This thought made her feel excited. She'd have so much to tell her old friends when she'd visit them one day.

But there was also another, way darker version she didn't even want to think about it.

Her head was buzzing with possibilities and she felt butterflies in her stomach. She was totally overwhelmed by this situation.

After many hours of nervous waiting, they finally arrived. This was the place they'd call home now.

It was a small town in Lower Saxony, surrounded by fields and forests. For a kid who grew up in a big city, this little town was beautiful. You could just go out and walk for a few minutes and you'd find yourself surrounded by trees instead of driving an hour only to see a small forest full of people and garbage left by them. You can't say this wasn't an improvement.

Everything was so different from what she knew before. Even buying groceries was an adventure.

Needless to say, life was a constant struggle, but with her family by her side, the little adventurer wasn't as nervous as before.

Eventually the vacation was over and she had to go to school. The NEW one.

It was the first morning before school, when the fright returned, this time it was even worse.

Still, life must go on, so she found the courage, got up and went to school. And yes, her parents had to force her but that's not the point, is it?

Her mom helped her to find the classroom and waited for her teacher to arrive before she finally left.

The poor little girl was left alone with people she didn't know or even understand.

The teacher talked for a little bit but the girl didn't understand a single word.

She was panicking. What if something important was happening? Would she ever really fit in?

After the first period everybody went out to play. The girl felt lonely and wanted to go back to her old school until she heard someone call her name.

“Alicja? That sounds like a polish name. Do you speak polish?”

She was surprised to hear someone speak polish so she turned around to face a boy from her new class.

“I'm from Poland too.”

And that's how the departure into my new life with new friends and challenges went. It was an unforgettable experience that taught me many values like the importance of friendship. It also helped me become braver and accept new challenges, which I wish to everyone.