

My Life as a Teen Immigrant

For Melissa de la Cruz American high school life was nothing like in the movies.

- 1 The summer before I turned 14, my family and I moved from Manilla, in the Philippines, to California. We left because my father's investment bank was struggling and also because my parents could no longer live with the gap between the lives of people like my family, who employed seven maids, and the lives of the majority of the population, who could barely afford shoes. Our new home in San Francisco was so small it could have fit inside my parents' old bedroom. But that was beside the point, we would become Americans.
- 2 In the Philippines we all spoke and read English and worshipped the American culture. So I was excited about the move, eager to become one of those confident American girls I'd seen in movies. But I was also terrified. At my fancy new high school, mean girls treated me like a freak. They couldn't find the Philippines on the map, and a few asked me if we lived in trees. I was shocked and insulted by their stupidity.
- 3 I tried to be cool and dyed the ends of my hair pink. I quickly learned that was against school policy. Miserable, I sneaked through the halls, wishing I were invisible. At lunchtime I sat by myself, embarrassed by the overdone three-course meals my mom would pack for me. I'd go home and beg her for plain turkey sandwiches instead. I didn't really want to eat them. I just wanted to fit in. When we had a school tea my mom brought (soggy) homemade cakes ... while the other moms dropped off chic boxes of Parisian cookies. I felt ashamed.
- 4 A few months later I met Ally, a girl in my neighbourhood who went to a different school. Ally was friendly and curious about me and my family in a welcoming way, not as if we were aliens. Ally loved my mom's fried bananas and laughed when I taught her swear words from my own language. She felt comfortable in our house, even though we weren't allowed to put our feet on the furniture and I felt at home in hers. With Ally I could just listen to music, watch TV and I felt like a regular kid.



- 5 Ally's acceptance helped me see that we all don't have to be alike and that's what I needed to find in my adopted homeland. Eventually I made friends at school as well. Then, over the years I became class president and got a date to go to the prom. All just by being myself.

bron: seventeen.com

- 2p **22** Melissa en haar ouders verhuisden van de Filipijnen naar de Verenigde Staten.
→ Geef bij elke reden voor de verhuizing aan of die wel of niet wordt genoemd in alinea 1.
Omcirkel 'wel genoemd' of 'niet genoemd' in je uitwerkbijlage.
- 1 Het ging minder goed met haar vaders werk.
 - 2 Haar ouders vonden het verschil tussen arm en rijk te groot in de Filipijnen.
 - 3 Ze wilden graag bij hun familie in de VS gaan wonen.
 - 4 Ze hoopten in de VS rijk te worden.
- 2p **23** Hoe voelt Melissa zich volgens alinea 2?
Geef bij elk gevoel aan of dat wel of niet wordt genoemd.
Omcirkel 'wel genoemd' of 'niet genoemd' in je uitwerkbijlage.
- 1 enthousiast
 - 2 angstig
 - 3 beledigd
 - 4 verdrietig
- 1p **24** Uit welke zin uit alinea 3 blijkt dat Melissa er graag bij wilde horen?
A "I quickly learned that was against school policy."
B "I sneaked through the halls, wishing I were invisible."
C "I just wanted to fit in."
- 1p **25** Waarom zat Melissa altijd alleen tijdens de lunchpauze? (alinea 3) omdat ze zich schaamde dat
A haar moeder de lunch voor haar naar school bracht
B ze koekjes meekreeg in plaats van boterhammen
C ze uitgebreide maaltijden bij zich had
- 1p **26** Welke bewering over Ally is juist volgens alinea 4?
A Ze kwam graag bij Melissa thuis.
B Ze leerde Melissa rare Engelse woorden.
C Ze zat op dezelfde school als Melissa.
- 1p **27** Wat is de belangrijkste boodschap van Melissa in alinea 5?
A Door jezelf te blijven, word je vanzelf wel geaccepteerd.
B Het kost weinig moeite om je in een ander land geaccepteerd te voelen.
C Je moet accepteren dat je niet met iedereen bevriend kunt zijn.