

Three Hungry Girls

Today, I would like to talk about three girls, one who suffered from hunger, one who is still hungry today and one who hopefully will learn and become hungrier.

The first, was a Japanese girl, who lived in China. One normal day, her peaceful life was shattered into tiny pieces. Because of Japan's defeat in World War II, she and her whole family were forced back to Japan. Tightly holding her little brother's hand, she and her whole family squeezed onto a tiny half broken crowded boat for several weeks. There wasn't enough food on the boat, and most was given to the younger kids. For the first time in her life she experienced real hunger for food. Every day was a struggle to live.

The second girl, is a Pakistani girl. One normal school day, she was riding a crowded bus home with her friends. Suddenly, an angry, armed, aggressive Taliban man shouted, "Where is MALALA! MALALA YOUSAFZAI!" His bloodthirsty yell froze the air. One of her friends unconsciously glanced at her. At that moment, the man pulled the trigger. The bullet failed to stop her but did change her life completely. Holding on tightly to her beliefs has fueled her hunger to follow her dream, improve her life and help impoverished girls through education still today.

The third and last girl is living here in Tokyo. On a normal Monday morning, she drags herself onto a crowded train carrying her to school tightly squeezed in with the thousands of other commuters. During fourth period, learning is losing in a battle with hunger to eat the bento her mom crafted. Lunch happily arrives offering a brief break but unfortunately departs with speed as fifth period starts all too quickly. This period brings new challenges as drowsiness hits and the yells of the angry teacher manage to keep her upright and awake.

Well, all of these three girls are the same age, 15. The first was my grandmother, the second was Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate and the last was me.

Can you believe they are exactly the same age but living in such total different ways? While I'm thinking of lunch, there are still girls searching and struggling for food somewhere else on this world. While I'm looking for some fancy pens to motivate myself to study, there are girls who can't study because of the environment around them. Eating lunch with friends, studying hard for tests or even having a home to welcome you is a rich environment. We really have to be thankful for being able to worry about minor things such as late lunches, poor wi-fi connections, or crowded trains. These problems can be considered luxurious for someone else.

Recently, I have been doing volunteer at "Kodomo-Shokudo". As a 15 years old girl in Tokyo this is one little step I can do to combat the troubles hunger brings. What we should keep in mind is to appreciate the environment we are in and to use our 'hunger' to learn and improve the situations for all people around the world.