

Rana's Journey

Rana didn't speak a word of English and she was already starting high school in America. Everyone around her sounded like they were speaking gibberish. She had no idea how to communicate with anyone else in the entire school and felt as though she was an alien in an on a foreign planet.

Rana moved to to the United States from Egypt when she was ten. She had lived in Egypt for almost her entire life with her mom, dad and two brothers. Due to her father's work, Rana and her family moved to a few different places like Paris and Japan before they moved to the United States. . Previously, he would only move to a new place for a couple months and then move back to Egypt. But when she moved to America, she didn't know until last minute that she would be moving there for much longer.

Rana had mixed feelings about leaving Egypt at the time. One part of her was very excited and eager to move to America because her friends and family that visited the U.S. before said that it was an amazing and beautiful place. But at the same time, she was heartbroken because she would have to leave all her friends and relatives in Egypt behind. When she went to see her relatives and friends for the last time before she left for America, many of them were crying because they didn't want to see them go.

When she arrived in America, she thought it was extremely different than being in Egypt. "When I came to America, it was very clean and really nice because Egypt isn't that clean and there's a lot of bad things happening in Egypt right now. But when I arrived in america, it was amazing and it was like heaven." she described.

But when Rana came to America, she only spoke Arabic. When she started started going to an American school, it was a bit of a struggle for her because she had a hard time communicating with people since she could not speak, read or write in English. She would frequently have to communicate to other people through hand gestures. But she was able to learn by taking English Language Development classes in middle school, watching many movies and from her parents, who already knew how to speak English.

Once Rana mastered English, she started to like American schools much better than her old schools in Egypt. Rana would say that American schools would try to teach kids the simplest ways to learn subjects and try to help kids understand those subjects. But in Egypt you had to learn many things and if you didn't pass a final exam or a grade you were required to take that grade again the following year. Rana had to take 9 subjects a day every year throughout all her years in elementary school and that was a lot of pressure on her as a young kid. Even though Rana had a lot of stress and pressure of having to learn English quickly when she started school, she was able to learn it and have an easier and better learning experience in America than she did in Egypt and made many new friends.