



Bella, 13

What have you been doing this week?

Well, I've been going to glee practice to perform for a winter concert. I've been doing a lot of homework, and I'm going to piano practice later today.

Tell me about glee.

It's this group of people who sing and dance the songs for the season, or whatever we like, songs from the 50s, back in the past, or modern music. We have a teacher who leads us. It's an after-school activity. The regular class in school is chorus.* Glee is an additional activity.

What classes are you taking?

Um, well, I take Algebra 1, and advanced language arts, and science, and social studies, chorus, technology, and PE.*

What are you doing in your piano lessons?

Well, right now, I'm just a beginner so I'm studying how to play.

Why did you decide to study piano?

I see how amazing the pianists are and how they're really good at playing these amazing pieces,* so I decided to learn how to do that.

Did you celebrate Thanksgiving this past week?

My sister and I celebrated Thanksgiving with our family that came around the state. Some of our cousins are in college, and they came. We ate turkey, of course, and corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, and

these special Vietnamese chips. They're hard to describe though.

What are you going to do this weekend?

I'm going to my temple and practice dancing for Vietnamese New Year. It's in February. I go to, like,* a Buddhist temple. We have lots of different celebrations.

How many people in your family can speak Vietnamese?

Basically all* of us. The kids are kind of* losing the Vietnamese culture, so we're trying to keep it up and keep up with our Vietnamese.

Do you know what you want to do when you are an adult?

I don't really know. I'm still trying to decide, but I want to do something that helps other people. Maybe a nurse, but I'm not sure.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Um, well, keep learning and have a good education so you can have a good future in life.

A Few Words

Chorus: A group of people who sing together.

PE: Physical education, a sports and exercise class.

Pieces: Anything that people sing or play on a musical instrument is called a "piece of music."

Like: Young people often use the word *like* in the middle of their sentences. Their teachers say it is not a good habit, but most young people use *like*.

Basically all: This is an informal way to say "almost all."

Kind of: This is an informal way to say "in a little way."

Discussion Questions

1. One of Bella's teachers gives extra time after school to help students learn music. Who is one of your special teachers? What does this teacher do to help students?
2. Bella thinks that people who can play the piano very well are amazing. Who do you think is amazing? Why?