*Red Scarf Girl* essay assignment: Personal Narrative through Literary Analysis

**Objective:** Inspired by chapter 12 of *Red Scarf Girl,* you will write a personal narrative (a story from your own life) that connects your own experience to the experience that Ji-li lives through.

**Essay Question:** When have you overcome self-doubt through encouragement from another person?

**Step 1: Choose a personal experience that relates to Ji-li’s experience in chapter 12**

Finish this sentence:

Like Ji-li, I doubted myself when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ encouraged me. As a result of the encouragement,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 2: Thesis**

Thesis Sentence: **one** sentence that tells the whole point of your essay in a clear and straightforward way.

The thesis is complete only if it states the topic of the essay and your ideas about that topic. It should introduce what all of the essay is about.

**THESIS =**  topic + comment

↓ ↓

General subject Your ideas about the subject

↓ ↓

Experience in RSG Your personal experience that relates to Ji-li

| Ji-li doubted herself and felt out of place. Teacher Zhang encouraged her to try. Ji-li decided to try to do her best. | I doubted myself when trying to complete my first triathlon, but my husband helped me realize that I could do it. |
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Example 1: While Meg overcomes self-doubt through the encouragement and advice from the three Mrs Ws in *A Wrinkle in Time*, I also struggled to realize that I was capable of completing a triathlon until the encouragement from my husband helped me succeed.

Example 2: In *A Wrinkle in Time*, Meg struggles to realize how powerful she is, just like I did when I started training for a triathlon, but both Meg and I realized that we were capable through the encouragement of others.

| My thesis: Ji-li felt out of place when she went to that meeting, the same way I did when I tried to climb that big rock in Outdoor Ed and was encouraged by my friends and teachers.  While Ji-li felt out of place and had self-doubt, I also struggled to get good grades on my report card, but both of us were supported by the encouragement from family and friends. |
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**Step 3: Outline**

Make a plan for each paragraph. Use the outline format I have provided below.

1. **Introduction**
   1. One-sentence hook about the essay topic that interests your reader in the topic of the essay:
   2. Transition - Connect the idea of the hook to *Red Scarf Girl:*
   3. Road map that previews the experience in *Red Scarf Girl* briefly:
   4. One-sentence thesis statement that compares Ji-li’s experience to your story experience:
2. **Body Paragraph 1 - RED SCARF GIRL** (USE NOTES FROM CH 12)
   1. Topic Sentence about Ji-li’s experience in *Red Scarf Girl:*
   2. Explain the beginning of Ji-li’s experience:
   3. Explain the middle of Ji-li’s experience:
      1. Example/quote about self-doubt from the text:
      2. Analysis:
   4. Explain the end of Ji-li’s experience:
      1. Example/quote about encouragement
      2. Analysis:
   5. Concluding sentence that clarifies Ji-li’s experience:
3. **Body Paragraph 2 - Exposition and rising action of my moment**
   1. Topic sentence that transitions from Ji-li’s experience to your own experience:
   2. Exposition/background of your story: (include at least two details)
      1. Detail
   3. Rising action of your story (include at least three details):
      1. Detail
4. **Body Paragraph 3 - Climax and resolution of my moment**
   1. Topic sentence that lets the reader know that the climax and resolution of your story are coming:
   2. Climax of your story (include at least three details):
   3. Resolution of your story (include at least one detail):
5. **Conclusion**
   1. Lesson you learned from your experience:
   2. Compare your experience to Ji-li’s*:*
   3. What do you have in common with Ji-li? What’s different (but keep it relevant!):
   4. Now, so what? What does it all matter? What do we learn from it all? What is this all really about? What does it tell us about life or the world around us?