*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? When I was running I felt like I couldn't beat someone but when David said good job keep going! I kept running and believed that I would pass that 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 working out, but my trainer encouraged me. As a result of the encouragement, I kept pushing myself to workout.

**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 out of place.  Teacher Zhang encouraged her to try. Ji-li decided to try to do her best. | When I was running I felt like I couldn't beat someone but when David said good job keep going! I kept running and believed that I would pass that person. |
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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 struggles to decide what path she should take in *Red Scarf Girl*, just like me when I was at the movethon and I was wondering should I keep running or just walk the rest of the way. |
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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: If you want to know about hard choices, doubt, and support then you have come to the right place.
   2. Transition - Connect the idea of the hook to *Red Scarf Girl:* **My experience was running in a thing called the movethon.**
   3. Road map that previews the experience in *Red Scarf Girl* briefly: Ji li was a girl who wanted to do the Class Education Exhibition, but she was unsure if she would fit in.
   4. One-sentence thesis statement that compares Ji-li’s experience to your story experience: Ji-li struggles to decide what path she should take in *Red Scarf Girl*, just like me when I was at the movethon and I was wondering should I keep running or just walk the rest of the way.
2. **Body Paragraph 1 - RED SCARF GIRL** (USE NOTES FROM CH 12)
   1. Topic Sentence about Ji-li’s experience in *Red Scarf Girl: Ji-li doubted herself and was out of place, Teacher Zhang encouraged her to try, and Ji-li decided to try to do her best because of the encouragement.*
   2. Explain the beginning of Ji-li’s experience: In the beginning of the chapter it was mainly about the class exhibition.
   3. Explain the middle of Ji-li’s experience: In the middle of the chapter it was about Ji li having second thoughts about the class exhibition.
      1. Example/quote about self-doubt from the text: “Teacher Zhang, I’m sure there’s someone in our class who can do a better job. You’d better find someone else.”
      2. Analysis: From this I think Ji li really does not want to do the class exhibition.
   4. Explain the end of Ji-li’s experience: At the end of the chapter Ji li went back to the class exhibition.
3. Example/quote about encouragement “I’ll do it.” (198)
4. Analysis: **She will do the class exhibition only because Teacher Zhang said some words to encourage her.**
   1. Concluding sentence that clarifies Ji-li’s experience: At the beginning of the book Ji-li doubted herself but now she does not, Ji-li tries to protect her family no one is pushing her but herself.
5. **Body Paragraph 2 - Exposition and rising action of my moment**
   1. Topic sentence that transitions from Ji-li’s experience to your own experience: Ji-li doubted herself when she thought she could fit in the Class Education Exhibition but when Teacher Zhang told her that she could keep trying she went back to the class and participated, like me when I was running in the movethon. I doubted I could get first place but my friends encouraged me to keep running.
   2. Exposition/background of your story: (include at least two details)
      1. Detail

The movethon is a running experience with different kids to run and I was doing it to get better at running. I was at the beginning of the movethon I started to run. I was getting tired but I kept pushing. I was running and breathing really hard but I kept going and surpassed people.

* 1. Rising action of your story (include at least three details):
     1. Detail

I was getting closer and closer to the finish line but I was getting slower and my legs were getting tired. I had to stop.

1. **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: Ji-li was encouraged by Teacher Zhang just like I was when I was running.
   2. Climax of your story (include at least three details):
      1. I stopped and walked, people surpassed me, my friends encouraged me by saying keep going, you're almost there and good job, so I kept running and I did.
   3. Resolution of your story (include at least one detail):
      1. I got 12th place out of 100 or more people and I was proud of myself.
2. **Conclusion**
   1. Lesson you learned from your experience: I learned that it is okay not to get 1st place, you just have to try your best.
   2. Compare your experience to Ji-li’s*:* Ji-li was worried about not being able to fit in the Class Education Exhibition and I was worried I would not be able to get 1st place.
   3. What do you have in common with Ji-li? What’s different (but keep it relevant!): We both try our best and we are determined to get something done , but we do not do the same thing.
   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? This world can be harsh but we do learn that you have to try your best not be the best and it doesn’t matter if you're the best at running the best at the class education exhibition it just matters that you try your best.