Recalling the two-year experience in United States, I smiled, for I underwent the metamorphosis from an immature and timid girl to a brave, smart and minded teenager. When first stepped on the land of this country, fear and resistance filled my heart- I had no friends who could immediately be with me. I hated the feeling of placing myself in an unacquainted situation at that time. Chihiro, the main character in Spirited Away, seemingly had a very similar experience with me.

Chihiro showed various aspects from being shy, selfish and indifferent to warm-hearted, brave and selfless. She was at first taken care so well by parents and never considered her needs and wants, nor did she ever tried to learn to behave politely and independently. Suddenly, her parents became pigs as they ate too much and to save them, Chihiro had to work for Yubaba. She first was helpless and perplexed for she had no ability to finish any tasks. Chihiro didn’t give up her work-boiling the water though, instead, she gradually finished her tasks excellently. Plus, the once selfish girl learned to respect others as she surprisingly said “excuse me” when knocking at Yubaba’s door. Chihiro insisted on what she pursues- to help people, to save others’ lives and to stay away from the bleak side of human nature. Eventually, Chihiro successfully rescued her parents.

Staying in a strange environment, I felt lonely in America two years ago and had no one to turn to when difficulties happen. With the embarrassing feeling, I was soon attracted to the free life abroad, and spent money recklessly on anything I liked, without making any financial plans. Things changed when I participated in a volunteering program- holding the food voucher after three-hour hard working, I realized I had to experience pains to win gains. When it comes to the school life, it is quite different from that in China, in my perspective. I was encouraged frequently to think about what I exactly want to pursue and what kind of person I want to be. The two-year study has provided me with the opportunity to go beyond the textbook and actually feel my dream.

The movie Spirited Away ironically illustrated that lazy people will eventually became pigs, although that was a curse. However, this saying coincidently echoes my life experience for that life taught me how to create mutual respect with other people, how to plan my daily schedule, and how to consider my future. Currently I have known the first two and need to be clear on my life goal, academically and vocationally. I find the feeling of growing now, exploring, pursuing and satiating my mind’s appetite, both beautiful and empowering. I am running towards the gate to college, and it’s not a race to the end, it’s a joyful journey.

Should I have the chance to be a student in Villanova, I will luckily sit in the classroom to figure out the questions in my life- Who am I, what can I know, what do I believe and how should I live, through learning Hebrew and Christian scriptures, Greek and Roman antiquity, etc. I will also be able to figure out what is real in the world and what is the nature of human existence. Staying in the harmonious community of Villanova, I will have the opportunity to interact with people from various background and thus can explore more different visions and be more acceptable. I appreciate if I will be offered the chance to understand the relationship among human beings, and between humans and the nature.