

I Am Who I Am Because...

A.A.

I am who I am because I am rebellious. I believed in my dream to be someone, even when my mother and my husband didn't want this for me.

When I was a little girl my mother told me, "Don't go to school because you don't need school to eat everyday. If you want to eat everyday, go to learn how to make bread, candy, dresses, cheese, cigarettes, or other things!"

But I didn't listen to her. I went to school at night, even while my mother said no. Every night I escaped my home to go to school. My mother waited for me outside and yelled at me. Sometimes she hid my shoes and my dress so I couldn't

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go to school. She said, "You're only going to school to find a boyfriend." She even forced me to wear old dresses with patches and holes so boys

wouldn't look at me, but I went to school anyway.

When I finished my school, I was very happy. I asked my mother, "Do you want to see my certificate?" She said, "Okay, but now you have to learn how to sew dresses or make something."

But I didn't learn how to sew dresses; I learned how to make jeans.

After I got married, I started to have the same problems with my husband. He didn't want me

to go to school because he said we only needed to work. He said the same thing that my mother said: "You are only going to school to find another man." I was

working, but I felt sad because I didn't understand English at my job. My daughters were not patient and did not want to teach me English.

I was rebellious again. I quit my job, and I decided to go back to school. First, I went to school to learn English. Then I wanted to learn sign language. Now I continue to learn English and I want to learn Mandarin too.

I am proud of myself because I'm a nurse's aide. I sew dresses and pants. I know Spanish, English, and Sign Language. I am an important person. And after studying hard I even understand when my youngest daughter says something rude.

Now I live with my second husband and he supports me and pushes me to go to school to learn English. He always tells me, "You can do it!" He helps me with everything and he supports me to learn other languages too. He bought a guitar and a saxophone for me because it is my dream to play these instruments.

I will never leave school again. I am proud of myself for everything that I have done. Being rebellious is part of who I am. My mother and my ex-husband didn't want me to follow my dreams. But I didn't listen to them, and now I'm on the right path. I am working towards all of my goals.



...I am rebellious.

What do You Think?

How did being a rebel affect the author?

Share some of the ways you have been a rebel in your life.

Share some of the ways you would like to be a rebel.

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