

# Pandemic Haircut

*Shuk Chun Yiu*

**BEFORE YOU READ:** How have you been getting your hair cut during the pandemic?

This pandemic has shut down many activities. We have to stay at home for a time to make the virus spread slowly in our community. It feels

**It helps if you can find ways to laugh and be joyful.**

like we are in a war. This war involves everyone in our earth village. *No matter* how bad the circumstances are, we have to keep ourselves strong

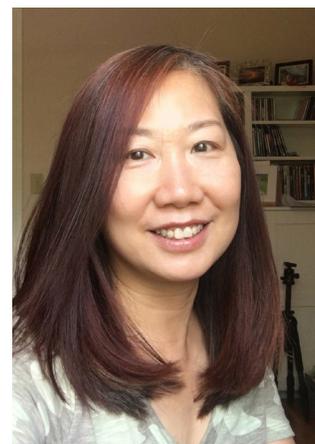
and healthy to run this marathon. It helps if you can find ways to laugh and be joyful.

For me, this opportunity came when my husband invited me to trim his hair. He had not had a trim for almost one month. I am the only one who could do it for him during the pandemic. I had never done it before. We made a joke that if I did an ugly cut it was no problem because no one would see him! We had a great time laughing together!

I imagined myself as a hairstylist. This was one of my dream jobs when I was young. For good preparation, I searched how to trim hair on YouTube. I learned some skills, like how to cut hair close to the ear and around the neck. We prepared the haircut scissors and haircut apron.

He sat on a short stool inside the bathtub and covered himself with the apron. I followed his original hairstyle and trimmed it. He obeyed my request to turn his head to the left and right. I gave him a mirror to check the look, same as in a salon. The result was good. Both sides were even and the top was flat. I like it. He likes it, too! We did a great job, and we were joyful. The main thing was we had fun in this uncertain time.

*Shuk Chun Yiu is a student at RI Family Literacy Initiative's Transitions to College class at the Pawtucket Public Library in Pawtucket, RI. She is from Hong Kong, and she now lives in Rhode Island with her husband, who moved there for work.*



**AFTER YOU READ:**

1. Notice how the author uses “no matter” in the first paragraph. Compare it to how Alicia Keys uses the word “matter” in her lyrics (p. 18). What other ways do we use “matter” in English? Write several sentences using “matter” or “no matter.”
2. What is the main idea of this essay?

## Pandemic Skills



What have you had to learn during the pandemic? How did you teach yourself? Share your skill with the class by using presentation software, such as Powerpoint or Google slides. Take pictures to go with your slides. Teach your classmates the skill you learned. Photos of Shuk Chun Yiu’s haircutting tools (left) and of her husband’s new haircut (right).

