

# Education Is Power

Amber Nguyen

**BEFORE YOU READ:** What are your thoughts on the title?

When I came to America seven years ago, my English level was very low. I had a job working at a supermarket, and the union provided English classes. I made friends with a nice Chinese guy named Peter. His job was to clean the building where I was studying English. He was retired, but he still wanted to work two days a week.

One day, he handed me a note. The note said, "Education is power. Keep learning and get your GED." This note inspired me so much! After three years of studying English, my teacher said it

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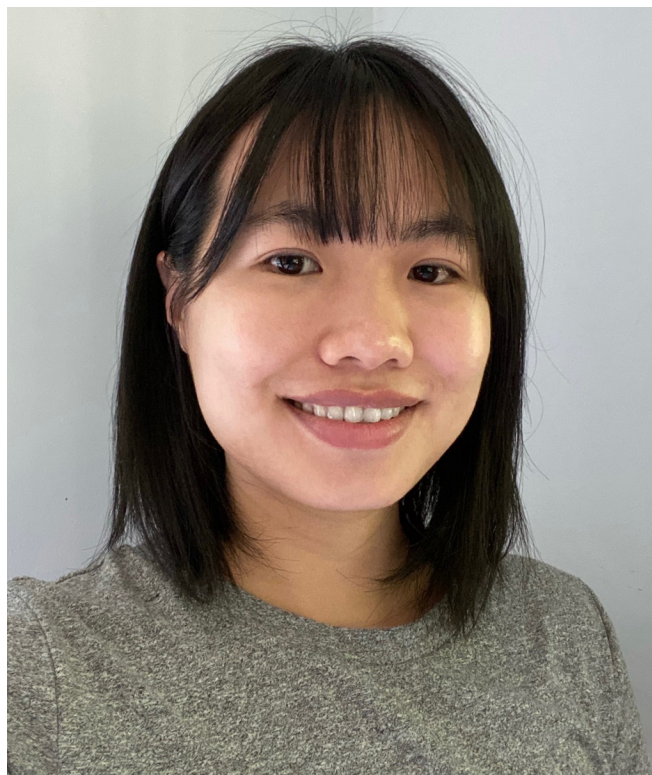
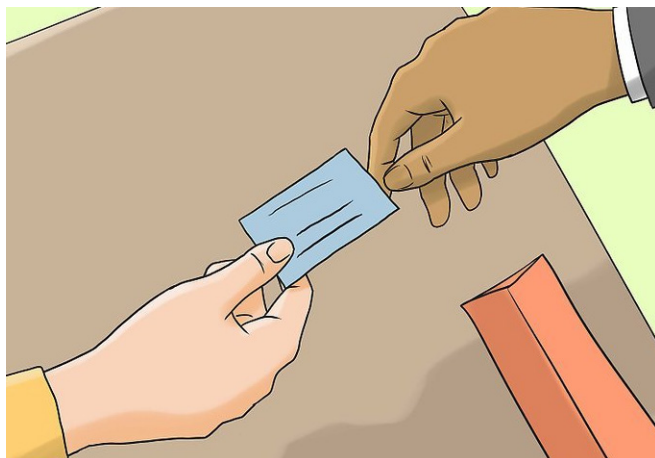
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was time for me to get my GED. I decided to prepare for this journey, but I found out that I was pregnant.

I stopped going to school. I was busy with my new baby. I was sad thinking I would not get my GED. All I did was take care of my baby and go to work two days a week on my husband's days off.

Four years later, I remembered Peter's note: "Education is power." I decided to go back to



school. I realized that it doesn't matter how busy or old I am, I still can keep fighting for my dreams. I know that I still have a long way to go, but I won't stop as I did in the past. I will get my GED, and I will keep learning because education is power.

**AFTER YOU READ:**

1. In a few sentences, re-tell Amber's story in your own words.
2. What does Peter do for Amber, and what impact does it have on Amber?
3. Has anyone ever made a small gesture towards you that turned out to have a big impact in your life? Tell the story.
4. Write a note of encouragement to yourself or to a classmate.

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*Amber Nguyen is an ESL student at the BEST Hospitality Training Center and is a member of the hotel workers union, UNITE HERE, Local 26. In addition, she takes Kaplan GED classes online. She is from Vietnam. She is so grateful that she has met so many good people who offer help when it is needed.*