

## Meet Young Immigrants: Asya's Story

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Hi, my name is Asya. I was born in Nickolaev, Ukraine, but I have lived most of my life in a town near Atlanta, Georgia. I moved to the United States with my parents when I was a baby. I am now in the third grade and speak both English and Russian. My brother, Tim, is in the first grade. I also have a cat named Tiger and a pet water frog named Perry. When I grow up I want to be a paleontologist, an artist, and an ice skater.

My family flew to the United States from Ukraine on an airplane. We moved from Ukraine when my father won a green card and got a job here. We lived in Michigan first and then moved to Atlanta.

Things are different in Ukraine and the United States. The holidays are different. We celebrate Christmas on January 7. Ukraine is an Orthodox Christian country, and Orthodox Christian countries follow a different calendar. It is 13 days behind the normal calendar, so we celebrate Christmas later than other parts of the world.

And Thanksgiving is a new tradition for us, because it is not celebrated in Ukraine. At Thanksgiving, we decorate the table and put all kinds of food on it. We celebrate together.

I have been back to Ukraine several times to visit. There is a lot more traffic in Ukraine than here. When I visited, I remember thinking, "who can forget that road, it's so crowded!" People in Ukraine use a lot of different kinds of transportation. There aren't a lot of cars, just vans and trains and buses.

When people ask me if I miss Ukraine, I say that I miss my grandmother most of all. I talk to my grandmother on Skype, and she tells me stories about her cat Buska. One day Buska caught a pigeon and brought it in the house. Buska always does funny things. My grandmother also tells me stories about the neighborhood in Ukraine where she lives.

I like living in the United States. It's clean, and I have a lot of friends here. Some of my favorite places to go are the ice-skating rink and gymnastics class. I also like to go to restaurants in New China. I love to go to the beach in Florida! I think I will go back to live in Ukraine one day. My parents will have to decide that. When I went to visit my grandmother in Ukraine, she met us at the airport with balloons in her hand. It felt like I was really at home. It felt like my real home.