

The True Meaning of Peace to Me, Something That I Will Achieve

Grade6 Shohki Hirako

My background includes Japan and China. I was raised in China throughout my childhood. At first, language skill poor, and even buying candy from the supermarket made me nervous. My neighbors always greeted me with a smile and spoke to me, showing patience even when my skills in Chinese were poor. This gave me a kind of comfort.

One day, I was told by my dad, "Japan has its good points and bad points, and China does too." He said, "In Japan, since we emphasize harmony, people obey rules and are kind to others. In China, as the proverb 'No matter if the cat is black or white, as long as it catches the mouse' says, people care about a person's goodness and outcome, and have an accepting culture." I don't quite understand it yet, but I believe that if Japan's and China's good points were combined, the world would be even more fascinating than ever.

When I came back to Japan, I began attending an international school. My friends are from India, Nepal, Sweden, the Philippines, Brazil, and so on. We shared various religion, diets (some are vegan and some are related religion), and we even shared different solving methods. But at recess, we all put aside our differences and play together. I found out that differences can be a basis for becoming better friends.

If I could make my own world a peaceful one, I would retain countries' borders but eliminate walls from people's hearts. Even though we have different languages, we could wear special earphones that instantly translate. At school, I would introduce a "World Play Time" course where we learn international games together. Just imagine playing with people with completely different religions and race all playing and having fun in the same playground—it would be full of laughter from around the globe.

Peace is not only something that can be built by adults. It can start through the friendship of children. The warmth I experienced in China, and the kindness and joy of embracing differences that I learned in Japan and at my school, are treasures I would love to cherish forever.

My hope is that the Earth will be like one great school, where we all play, learn, and support one another. That's the peaceful world that I envision.