

Jena Heath: Jill, can you tell me a little bit about yourself? What do you like to do?

Jill Warnke: I like to hang out with my friends after school. After Tuesdays, I go to Clock Towers to practice. Sometimes on Mondays I go to Girl Scouts. Then Wednesdays I have religion. Thursday's basketball practice. Friday, I don't do anything.

Jena: What's Clock Tower?

Jill: Clock Tower's a theater. You can audition for different kinds of old movies. Last year I was doing *Annie*. There are lots of orphans. I wanted to audition for Tessie. I think she was ten years old, or eleven. I auditioned for her because I wanted to. Me and my dad looked up lines to see how many there were. It took a long time. Then I wanted Tessie. Dad told me I might not get what I wanted. I auditioned and I got it.

Jena: Were you nervous?

Jill: So-so.

Jena: Did you have to sing a song from *Annie* for the audition? Did you come up with your own song or whatever you needed to do for the audition?

Jill: You only need to say a few lines. I don't know if you had to audition with the song.

Jena: Then you got a solo, I hear. What was that like?

Jill: I was a little nervous to first practice the solo. Then I get the hang of it. You get used to it once you practice it more. When I went on stage for the real one for the show, I wasn't that nervous. My other friend Yana and Juliana, Juliana was July. Yana was Kate. They both did the dance after I sung. They danced and they had little solos too. I wasn't that scared since I with two other friends.

Jena: It's always easier. It's nicer to do things with other kids. You play basketball too?

Jill: Yeah. I do it on Thursdays. Sometimes we have games on Sundays or Saturdays.

Jena: Is there a favorite thing that you do? Do you have a favorite of all these activities? You're pretty busy.

Jill: I don't know.

Jena: Tell me about school. What do you like about school? Any favorite subject?

Jill: I like art. For this art class, I'm doing this art project that involves clay. I don't really know it that much. My second favorite would be recess and then snack and lunch.

Jena: Recess is my daughter's favorite subject. And art? And Chinese?

Jill: My school doesn't do a culture -- we're doing this project that you have to pick a country or a state. Then you have to study more about that. Then you do this thing on iPads called the ShowMe app. There's slides. You have to put pictures and words on it. In the beginning you have to say, "Welcome to..." then you have to tell them how to say "Ni hao," then show them other slides in your state or country. At the end you have to say, "Thanks for watchin'. Bye." Then say how you say goodbye in your language.

Jena: Did you get to pick your country? Was it assigned? Did you pick China?

Jill: You get to pick your country. Then you have to study about it. I picked China.

Jena: What'd you learn about China studying about it? Anything interesting?

Jill: I kind of learned their population. I was doing fun facts and stuff. I looked up some foods and sports.

Jena: They like basketball. Did you read about Yao Ming?

Jill: Yeah. I did that one. I think I did that one. I did that one, but it said it was called something different.

Jena: Did you find out there are 1.4 billion people in China? Lot of people there.

Jill: I only looked up the population once, so I forget it right now.

Jena: Did it make you curious about wanting to visit China? Do you have any memory at all of China?

Jill: I get an idea of how China looks. These two mom and dad, they had been on the Great Wall of China. They took videos. They let me watch them. My dad, there was a broken stair on the Great Wall. He kicked it off and kept it.

Jena: Dad took home a piece of the Great Wall, I hear. [laughs]

Do you have any interest in visiting China, do you think, maybe when you get a little older?

Jill: I'm going to visit China next year with Clara.

Jena: You're all going to go together. You looking forward to that?

Jill: Mm-hmm. I thought it was going to be this year in 2016. Mom said it was 2017. I thought it would be this year. I'm really excited to go, but now I have to wait a whole nother year.

Jena: You can even learn more about it maybe and be even more ready for the trip, a little more time to prepare.

Jill: There it is. It has seventy dollars of Chinese money and a piece of the Great Wall.

Jena: Wow. Pretty cool. That is pretty cool.

Jill: Dad wrote in red marker, "2008." Then he wrote on the other side, "The Great Wall."

Jena: That is so cool. When you go visit, you'll probably go and climb part of the Great Wall.

Jill: Yeah. They took the whole day to climb it and then went back down.

Jena: It's pretty tiring. It's big. You could take the whole day and only climb a little part of it because it's hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of miles.

Jill: I looked up, it stretches about thousands of miles. I forget. It had sixty-two thousand or six thousand miles.

Jena: It's pretty amazing. In your school, are there other kids who are Chinese?

Jill: There's this boy named Jaden in our class. His dad's dad is Chinese. His dad's Chinese, so he studied Chinese. We had to work together. He doesn't even know how to spell sports or foods.

Jena: You mean sports or foods in English or Chinese?

Jill: He doesn't know how to spell the word sports in English or the word foods in English because we were looking up on the iPad and on the computer in the computer lab, Chinese foods and Chinese sports. I had to help him. We looked it up. Jaden had to spell things out. I told him I'm not helping him. He asked another kid in my class. They told him.

Jena: Jaden knows he can't get over on you. He's been told. Do other kids ever ask you about being from China or being adopted? What's that like?

Jill: They did, my friends Si-Si, Tristan, Sophia, mostly just girls. Only sometimes they ask me. It's kind of fun sharing what I'm sharing.

Jena: What do you they ask you?

Jill: They ask me, "Where were you dropped off?" First, my friend Si-Si -- her real name's Sian but we all call her Si-Si -- she thought I was dropped off to an orphanage, but I was really dropped off to adoption center.

Jena: When you explained that to her, did she have more questions?

Jill: I didn't really explain it to her. My dad did.

Jena: When kids ask you about it, are you okay with that? Do you feel okay with that? Does it make you feel weird? Are you like, "I'll just answer your questions?" What do you think when they ask you?

Jill: It doesn't really bother me a lot. I just answer them. Sometimes I don't know the answer.

Jena: Then you just tell them, "I don't know?"

Jill: Yes.

Jena: Do they stop asking after that?

Jill: No.

Jena: They keep going, right?

Jill: Yes.

Jena: Then what do you want to say?

Jill: I don't know.

Jena: Is there anything that you would like kids to know, you would like to say to other kids about how to talk to kids who are adopted, kids who are adopted from another country? Is there anything you'd like them to know if you could tell them anything?

Jill: No.

Jena: No? Just stop asking me questions?

Jill: I wouldn't say that. I just don't have anything that I really, really want to tell them.

Jena: I want to thank you very much for talking to me.

Jill: Thank you.