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### The Girl Who Spoke in Two Worlds

Language is one of the most powerful things we have. It's what shapes us, how we think, how we create and seek connection, and most importantly how we see ourselves. For Samantha, language wasn't just about learning new words but it was about learning how to fit in, in a place that didn't yet feel like home for her. Samantha arrived in the United States from the Dominican Republic at a very young age, she was a little girl curious yet unaware of how different her new world would be. The streets full of snow and the cold air that made her skin crawl. Everything so different compared to living in the Dominican Republic a place of warmth and her world before stepping into the United States. She remembers the streets covered with gray and slushy snow because of the cars, and how the cold air made her skin crawl, which really was a big contrast compared to the brightness and warmth streets of the Dominican Republic. The different language and people that surrounded her made everything seem so unfamiliar to her. In her language moment she talks about the fear that she first experienced being surrounded by words which she couldn't comprehend. "I was left alone in a place where I couldn't communicate what I felt," The memory that shows both the isolation she first experienced and the beginning of her journey to find her voice.

Samantha's story thrives in demonstrating her determination. Although her dad could speak English well, her mother couldn't. Which made Samantha navigate between both worlds

constantly since she had to speak Spanish in her house, while speaking English in the outside world. “It felt like I lived two different lives.” She wrote. The constant split between English and Spanish created a lot of pressure for her, since at school and in the outside world she felt excluded for not understanding anything. But at home she was expected to hold on tight to her Dominican roots and speak Spanish. It became a part of her identity which greatly shaped her relationship with both languages and herself.

Her writing uses her life experiences to vividly describe her emotions and what she had to go through to get to where she is now. Things like how when she would hear her teacher speaking, she would barely understand anything. Or the times where she was pulled out of class to have one on one meetings with her teacher Ms. Reyes, to help her out with her English. All those moments made her feel different, but they also made her build character and resilience. She uses pathos to show the readers the frustrations she endures and her wants to be like the others and just belong, without feeling excluded. She remembered her first day of school clearly, the kids talking and having fun, her teacher talking to the class and teaching all while she couldn’t understand anything. All of it made her feel left out and it didn’t help the fact that she would be pulled out of class randomly to attend extra help for English classes, something that made her envious of her classmates who didn’t have to struggle in the way she did. Her struggles are what made her who she is and it tells us the readers how hard it is to grow up in a house where you are expected to know multiple languages.

As Samantha grew older, her perspectives began to change. She found herself resonating with the quote from Ludwig Wittgenstein, “The limits of my language mean the limits of my world,” and giving it meaning in her life. It reminded her of how once language held her back, but now it’s one of her tools to create connection and express with the world. English opened many doors

for her that otherwise she would've never had the chance to explore with only Spanish. But it also created some distance from her roots, now that she is fluent in English, which sometimes makes her unsure of her Spanish. But she also understands that is what she needs in order to continue to grow in her new world.

Samantha's story not only talks about her struggles learning English, but is also about her identity, culture, and she finding her place in a new place where everyone else is different from you. Her story shows how language changes us and shapes us, as well as changing the way we see the world around us. Language is not only a way in which we communicate but is also the collective of our memories, culture, and the bridge between who we were and who we are going to be.

AI statement:

I used AI in order to help me structure my essay, and to help me to set a start. It helped me to organize my paragraphs, also to brainstorm ideas of how I should write it better. It helped me to set my tone better, and making my text more fluid. Lastly it helped me with telling me how I could improve even further my essay and to guide me a little better.