

## **What could we do to understand people from other cultures?**

The world is made up of more than 160 different countries. Meaning that there are that many more people in cultures different from my own.

Many kids around me study abroad at English speaking countries from an early age. Majority of those kids, however, appear to focus only on their studies rather than absorbing and learning about that country's culture.

I have heard that such tunnel vision causes many problems. Although I too am tempted to leave to study English abroad, I find it difficult to muster up the courage to simply pack up and go because I'm so used to Korean culture therefore, before I study abroad in a foreign country, I want to learn and understand the country before deciding where to go, what to study. That is why I joined the New Zealand Homestay Program, to better understand different cultures. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to learn a little bit more about people living in an English-speaking culture. For a more in-depth understanding, I think I need to supplement my experience with more reading once I return.

Even if it is only indirect experience, I believe acquiring greater appreciation and understanding of other cultures through books would make my life that much richer and fulfilling.

Therefore, although it was only for a short time, I am sincerely grateful for the time I spent with my New Zealand Homestay family. I also want thank Sophia, whom I met on this trip.

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