

Dear Reader,

We are Amelia and James. Amelia is turning nine this year and James is six. We were both born in Sydney. Our mum is Chinese and was born in France and our dad was born in England.

Amelia: Grandma came from France. But before that she came from Cambodia. She had to run away from Cambodia. Because the government was killing people for no reason. She was lucky she made it. Then she went to France. Where she had my mum. Cute little baby mummy. She got... a mushroom haircut! She said it looked horrible. We don't see grandma much. But she cooks different foods...

James: Oysters!

Amelia: So she cooks dumplings sometimes. She gets lots of fruits. Like mango, apple...it's so good.

James: Yummy yummy!

Amelia: I think we've been to England. I've been to France when I was one and a half. I met my family there. That's where I had my first ice cream. Vanilla ice cream. It was so nice. It was... the best day of my life. My first time having my *amazing* ice cream that actually tasted good. I can speak a tiny, tiny bit of French. We don't know a lot of it, but we just know a tiny bit. We know a bit of Chinese, tiny, tiny bit.

James: Ni hao. Ni hao.

Amelia: Mum speaks Chinese, French and I think another language? Well, my grandma, knows how to speak eight languages.

James: And she has lots of friends that speak different languages but lucky she speaks them as well.

Amelia: At school I learn Japanese! I know how to say hello and every colour and some fruits. Blueberry and banana are the easiest because they sound like English. I think it's fun to learn another language.

James: Me too! Because then you can talk to other people that don't speak your language! I want to learn the hardest languages. Confusing stuff.

Amelia: I want one of the ones that I don't know as well. Like, I know English more than French so I want to learn how to do some more Chinese and Japanese.

* * * *

Amelia: For school lunch we bring our lunchboxes and thermos. We have healthy food, but then we get a treat only sometimes. No, actually, it's more than sometimes.

James: Sandwiches. Sandwiches. Nutella.

Amelia: Wait, no, we don't really have Nutella. That's a daydream, that's a daydream. Okay bro?



That's a daydream. We get some honey, sometimes jam. But I don't like the honey or jam because it's too sweet. Honey sandwiches is my worst enemy. But Nutella's not too sweet.

James: Soup!

Amelia: Oh yeah, soup. Sometimes we have soup? Sometimes noodles and chicken soup. I share food sometimes with my friends. We're not really allowed but we know that like, we're not allergic to any food. We eat lots of stuff.

Oh yeah, I like Indian food! Especially the puffy bread. Because you dip it in some dips and stuff.

James: And once when we ate them we made a little wrap with it.

Amelia: Yeah we made a wrap! So we broke it and then putted sauce all over it. Like layers and layers of it. Yeah I like different culture food. Ummmm... I like dumplings...

James: Dumplings!

Amelia: And I love yum cha! They have mango pancakes! They are so good. I don't really like chicken feet. They're chewy.

James: Jelly! We get jelly at yum cha!

Amelia: But yum cha is not an often thing. We don't go to that often. It's a sometimes place. So we don't go often... Har gow.

James: Har gow! Har gow! I eat crab. I also eat crab.

Amelia: Oh yeah, I love crab. I love crab as well. But no chilli. I. Do. Not. Like. Chilli! We also like Japanese food. So good.

James: Yes! Yummy! Sushi! Sushi! I like the people who throw food at me and you have to catch it in the bowl.

Amelia: Teppanyaki! That's so fun. I think we go to catch eggs. Or rice. Oh, and bowls. I was so bad at catching bowls. But my dad caught, I think it was rice with some other things.

James: And I only got half of it and it was on the table.

Amelia: No, we got the eggs. We only got the eggs in the bowl.

James: Yeah, but I missed half of the rice.

Amelia: So the guy would throw the egg. Or it was the rice? Or the bowl? No, it was the bowl or the egg.

James: It was all of it. They took turns.

Amelia: Oh and I love bubble tea! It's so good. I like the ones that have the black balls.

James: I don't like the jellies, they block the straw up.

Amelia: But Australian food... I think of apples, strawberries, bananas, grapes...

James: Carrots! Soup!

Amelia: I like meat pies.

James: MEAT PIES!

Amelia: We don't eat them much but I love them. Oh yeah and Vegemite! But I don't really like it. My friends say like, 'You don't like Vegemite?! You're crazy!' It's a bit too salty.

James: I don't like Vegemite either!

* * * *

Amelia: At school I have friends that come from different countries. I know that my friend Raina came from India. But I only remember her because she left our school and now I really want her to come back so I just remember her name. I don't remember what she looks like.

And we have Harmony Day at school. So you wear the colour, like what colour you are. Kind of part colour, something like that. Yeah. Then you wear it to school. I got embarrassed because you're wearing like, different clothing than the uniform. Everyone's colourful and you're like, 'Wooooooow, this is embarrassing' because when you walk into school, I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm all orange. And oh my gosh, everyone else is orange. Oh my gosh!' I just remember that...

James: And then remember they took a photo of everyone in orange, and also red.

Amelia: If they didn't have orange clothes they would wear the red clothes. But there are kids from different countries at my school, East Brisbane State School, so I don't feel like I'm different. Some of them might, but I don't really. People don't bully a lot in East Brisbane. There are a lot of people in my class who are from different countries. Like half half? Maybe?

James: Kind of. Half half.

Amelia: It's cool because they have different colour skin and they can talk different languages to someone that knows it. I don't really feel different from them. I feel like they're kinda like me. They're funny like me. Like they're kind. So the skin colour doesn't matter, but they speak a bit differently, which I find really cool. They can have, like, a different style of hair that you've never seen before and... wow!

James: I like people that come from different countries.

Amelia: Yeah, it's super cool! Because they talk a different language. Sometimes they only know a bit of English. And sometimes they teach me their language. Like only one word.

But people from other countries, they can just learn how to say English. Because when you're a baby, you learn how to speak because of your mum and dad talking together. So they would do the same thing. Like if someone says, 'Hi, what's your name?' to someone then they said their name, then they were friends skipping along then they have to learn how to talk to each other..

James: Yeah. Because like when you're a baby you don't know how to speak just like them so for babies it's like they're from a different country as well. If there's another culture I can be like, 'Hi, what's your name? I can help you speak this language.'

Amelia: But they wouldn't know what you're talking about.

James: So I just have to practice saying their language and talk in their language.

Amelia: I feel like I belong in Australia. Because I was born in Australia.

James: Because we have lots of friends, lots of family. Lots of pooping butts.

Amelia: I belong in Australia. I live in Australia. I live for Australia.

James: I poop for Australia.

Amelia & James