

Interview with Yina Liang from Favorite Poem.org

<http://www.favoritepoem.org/thevideos/liang.html> RealAudio video file

Transcript created by Arlyn Freed ©2001

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Hi, um, My name is Yina Liang and I am sixteen years old and I live in Atlanta, Georgia and I'm a junior at Drew Hills High School.

Well um this is my family : this is my dad, this is my sister Wendy, and this would be my Mom.

It is very hard to be a teenager, it's very, very hard. You have to know: how to drive, and how to have your parents trust you enough to let you drive and you have all this peer pressure from all of your friends. There's so much stuff: so many questions, so many choices when you're a teenager. What're you gonna be when you grow up? Are you pleasing yourself? Are you pleasing your friends? There're so many things going on at the same time. You have to chew your gum and walk at the same time and that's very, very hard when you're a teenager.

I was born in China, mainland China and I came to America when I was 9 years old. I lived in Philadelphia for about a year and then moved to Atlanta.

Oh there's so many activities I'm involved in: Art club, French club, drama club, chess club, national honor society and science club. I play 3 instruments: violin, viola, and keyboard, three. The reason why I love pigs so much is 'cause I'm born in the year of the pig. It's a Chinese thing but they're so cute don't you think?

I also like to draw. This is a comic book I'm currently working on. After clubs I do my homework, breathe, and then I have to eat dinner. And then I have the internet for an hour. I go to bed very early, 9 o'clock.

My parents expect me to be perfect, the perfect daughter, the perfect American girl and the perfect Chinese girl. Everybody wants me to be somebody I guess. My Mom wants me to be a doctor, a lawyer, that's somebody. I have to be the perfect sister. I have to be a perfect student for my teachers. Straight A's of course. I have to be the perfect friend for my friends. I have to look beautiful for myself to be happy, I have to be somebody for myself. And, you know, I just wanta be nobody sometimes I guess.

The reason why this is my favorite place in the whole wide world is because the sky is really big and the grass is really big and the mountain is really big and like, the universe. And I'm like a little star in the universe. And because I'm part of the universe, I feel big. When I come to Stone Mountain Park, I like to lie down and look at the sky and just breathe, basically. And just not think about anything and just be nobody, I guess.

Emily Dickinson's life was lived in seclusion; she's a romantic like me. I enjoy relaxing and just being not bothered and I think she being able to do that was good. And I think I'm trying not to be bothered by the rest of the world so much.

I think I discovered this poem in 7th grade and then again in 8th and every year as life keeps getting busier, the poem keeps coming back to me and it keeps getting better every time, that I think it discovered me instead.