

Monoracial Interview #1 (Georgia)

Male Korean American Adoptee - Georgia

A monoracial adoptee was easier to find than a multiracial one. My multiracial adoptee helped me find my monoracial adoptee because I don't know a lot of adoptees. The only ones I really am starting to learn about are my group members. They have been a great help with understanding what it's like to be adopted and Asian. They are all monoracial and they are very outspoken individuals that have lots of thoughts and opinions about the issues adoptees face.

My interviewee, JY, was adopted from Korea when he was 6 months old by a Korean woman and Irish-American couple from Lynn, Ma. He doesn't know a lot about his biological parents because the paper work that he was given didn't really have lots of information about them. The paper just talked about his health issues and the northern part of Korea in which he was adopted from. He is now 27 years old and wishes he knew something about his biological parents but sometimes he doesn't care because his parents now are the most caring and kindhearted people. He says that his parents have always been friends to him and he says that he was "adopted into the right family".

He says that growing up he was very lucky to be adopted into a family that not only is caring but also they look alike. He says that people never imagined his parents are his biological ones. He thinks that helped a lot because he wants to be viewed as different. He was lucky that his mother is Korean and he was able to have her teach him the language, culture, and traditions. He was also lucky that his father was Irish-American and they would travel to Ireland and Korea. He says he got to experience a lot of things that other adopted children might have but he might be lucky to have.

He explained that he didn't have a hard time finding his identity. He says that he grew up being an individual that had his own thoughts and opinions. He says that his teachers in school always told his parents that he was very smart and very outspoken for an Asian boy. He liked being one of the few Asian students in school because it made people know him and like him. In school, people didn't make fun of him because he was Asian. He says that he had lots of friends because of the type of person he is. He is a very loud and happy individual that will make you laugh and that will just say anything to break the ice. He must have been like that during high school because he is such a high energized person.

He says that the only racist comment made to him, is being smart and having to prove that that is true. He says that “everyone has stereotype that all Asians are smart, so I had to prove that I was”. Sometimes he explained it was hard because if one day he had a bad day, he needed to prove to people and himself that it was just a bad day. Lots of the people he knew were very expecting especially all through his school years. Even in college, he was never picked on and never had a problem with people. He thinks this had to do with his personality.

He now is 27 years old and married to a White woman and still lives in Lynn, Ma. He says that he’s been very lucky and is happy that no one has ever questioned his identity. He is totally different from my multiracial interviewee. She gives more answers to our group project of adoptee. I think it’s because she’s multiracial and has thought more about her identity because her life was different (parents wise, culture, and skin tone).