

Multiracial Interview #1 (Georgia)

Female Vietnamese/African American Adoptee - Georgia

It was kind of hard for me trying to find a multiracial adoptee. I don't know lots of adoptee. This semester is my first time being in a class with 5 other adopted children. I thought it was very interesting to see that they are normal children with the common ideas and thoughts as mine. That might sound ignorant because they are human beings with same interests as me. But I had never spoken to other adoptee and never knew their experiences until this semester in Multiracial Experiences. This was my first experience and I thought it was very interesting.

My interviewee is a half Vietnamese and half African American individual that now lives in Everett, Ma. She moved here to Mass. when she was a couple months old from the South of Vietnam. Her biological mother is 100% Vietnamese and her biological father African American. Her father had moved to Vietnam for business and met her mother and fell in love. Her mother got pregnant after a couple of months and gave her up for adoption because there was no way they could take care of her. There would be too many family issues and the family would not accept them as a couple. This is just the story her now parents have told her. She sometimes is hesitating to believe it's true but she goes with it. At first it was hard for her but now she's got use to the story and thinks it's kind of interesting. She was adopted by a white Mass. couple who lived in New Jersey in 1984 a couple months after she was born and has been living in Everett now from when she was 5. Her parents now are Irish and Swedish. She's gone both to Ireland and Sweden and loves both places. She's actually going again to Ireland at the end of November to visit her family.

She says that since she's been living in Everett, she's suffered from the questions of "where are you from", "why don't you look like your parents", "why were you adopted", "has it changed your life", and the obvious, "do you want to meet your biological parents?" She says that these questions don't really bother her anymore but when she was in high school and starting college, they started to bother her identity. She sometimes felt like she didn't belong to the community. She felt like everyone judged her and her opinions. When she was a junior in high school, she went through a change and acted out. She would get into fights and start trouble with people because people would make fun of her and talk about her. They would make racist comments toward her. People couldn't understand why she looked Asian but was dark. She said lots of people would look at her and ask her questions. Still people are curious to know what she is. She just answers "I am mixed".

As an adoptee, she feels like she is even more different than non-adoptee mixed individuals. She feels like she was picked on more at school and people always had something to say negatively. She said that she was lucky that her family and friends never questioned anything about her identity. Her family and friends have always accepted her and she loves them for that. When she would travel with her parents, she said that there would be those random people that asked where she was from but she said that her and her parents would just joke about it. They would just say things like "Oh, she's ours! All ours! See what pretty babies we come out with!" They would laugh with people's remarks because she says that some people just don't understand. They feel like everyone should be the same but it's not like that. Everyone is different and everyone should be able to connect with changes.

She says that her being adopted and multiracial has caused her many problems in life that she's learned to deal with. She says that if she hadn't gone through her experience of getting picked on in school, she wouldn't be the type of person she is now. She feels like people just don't understand that we're all different and we all come from different backgrounds. She still gets the questions where are you from and she simply answers "I am from Everett!" with a big smile and leaves the person with unanswered questions.

My interviewee can bring a lot to our community project. She is a very positive person that is very open with her opinions and thoughts about being multiracial. She likes to laugh and joke with the weird questions she's been asked. Also she can bring a lot to the project because she has dealt with racist comments, with being picked as a child for being adopted and for being mixed. She can bring her own experiences and feels like this website were doing is an excellent idea because getting people from UMass will be very interesting to see how many will react and how many will want to learn more about the community of multiracial adoptee.