

**Topic:** My father's Struggle when he was new in the United States.

**Abstract:** My Father crossed the U.S border when he was only 11 years old. He didn't have the opportunity to study because of lack of money, his family and him were very, very poor. He is one out of 17 brothers and sisters. He suffered a lot while he was a child. He came to the U.S to help his parents with money. Then he became a better U.S Citizenship. He has a happy life now with his family

**Keywords:** Bad conditions, lack of money, no education, not a very happy childhood, depression, sadness, lonely.

My father's Struggle when he was new in the United States

My father was born in Chavinda, Michoacan. My grandma has 19 kids in total, four girls and 14 kids. Unfortunately, she had four miscarriages, one of the girls died when she was about 2 weeks old, and one of the boys died when he was 15, and 3 years ago one of my uncles committed suicide. So now there are 12 alive in total. My father is one of the oldest; he is the third one of the family. My father was one of the brave ones, because he came to the United States to help his parents with money. He saw that they were suffering a lot because of lack of money and he saw that his family couldn't stand living like that no more. He came to the U.S when he was 11 years old, because of that; he didn't have the opportunity to go to school and have an education, also because school was expensive, because in Mexico you have to pay for school. My father crossed the border illegally, he took 3 days of his life risking his life, by not eating anything and he didn't have enough water to drink. He didn't cross by himself though, he was coming with one of his friends that he kind of new from Chavinda, and so they decided to cross together. His friend didn't made it all the way though, because he died the second day at night while they were crossing. It was so sad because my father didn't know what to do because they were both so young and innocent and he had never faced those problems,

he went to get help with the people who get the immigrants and told them what happened, so they did helped him and then they put my dad like in a little place were they put the immigrants who are crossing the border, but he was so lucky that they let him go and that's were he stayed in Tucson, Arizona.

The first thing he went to do was to get something to eat and he still remembers what he ate, he ate beans with rice and salad that an old lady who was Mexican as well offered him to eat at her house. She was very nice that she even offered him her place to sleep in, so then my dad decided to look for a job and luckily he did he started working with a men who needed help with his house because he was trying to make it look better so my dad was very embarrassed at first but he still did but he only stayed there for 2 to 3 weeks because he said it was too much already and he thanked her for all the help she offered him. With the money that he already had saved in Mexico and the one he made here in the U.S he afforded moving to San Juan, California, because a man he had met before told him that it was a very small town that would be good to live in and he did, he quickly found a job at a field. He worked very well but sometimes the rain came it he had to stop working for a little bit. He struggled with money and he needed a car, luckily he had somewhere to stay because he found a sign at a store that a married couple were renting a little room. My father cried and cried because he missed his family and because he was racing himself because he was always by himself. Many people helped him but they never got very close to him.

Money was always an issue for him because without money you can't do everything. It makes me very sad because he never had a childhood, he never got the change to play with toys or do any fun things he was always just a man even though that

he was already 12 or 13 years old. When my father turned 18, he lived now in a trailer by himself that his manager in the field had gave to him as a present because he was such a good worker in the years that he had worked with him. Then, money was not really an issue no more he started going to classes in the night to learn English, he loved going because he knew that he had to learn more English and speak it well because he knew he was going to learn it because his goal was to become a U.S citizen. By the end of the year he learn English very good and he told me that he learned it fast because he did the best he can and that if he really wanted to become U.S citizenship he had to learn it fast. He did all the paper work and everything and a year later he became one. Even though he was a legal now and a citizen he never stopped working at the field because he liked working there even though it was a hard work. Then he asked for permission at his job if he could leave for about two months because he wanted to see his family in Mexico and he did he was so happy to see his whole family back together happy, but when he left they hated watching him leave again. When he got back he still kept on working on a field, but this time his manager put him in a higher position. He became a manager and he was very happy because he was also going to get paid more. Then he started working with men and woman. He started liking this lady who he worked with that was only a year younger than him, but he didn't really talk to her because he was to shy and didn't really know how to talk to a girl because he had never had that experience. So, one day he did he went up to her and was just asking her about her life and everything and she was very friendly, she said that she was from Cueramaro, Guanajuato and she was going along with the conversation too. The next day, he asked her out to eat and she said yes

they went out for hours in a Sunday morning and got back at 11 pm. He told me that they went to go dance after.

About a year in a half later my father asked his lady to marry him, and she said yes. The next day he went to her parent's house so he could ask her hand and tell them that they want to get married. Her parent's and my father started communicating and they got to know each other and they thought that he was a good man and that he was responsible and was a strong man because he always did what he thought was right for him and the rest of his family. They got married in Salinas a year later in a chapel and in the church that day. They did it that way because they thought it was going to be cheaper, so they did. She moved in with him in the trailers for a while and then they were making a little house right there in San Juan and when they made it they first liked it a lot and they were happy for it.

Finally good news happened. His wife told him the good news that, they were having a baby. He got so happy and excited that tears came out. He couldn't believe that he was going to become a father already. Nine months later they had a baby girl and then about a year later she got pregnant again and they had another baby girl. Then another year later she got pregnant again and then they had another baby girl, he always told me that he always thought he was going to have a boy and girl but he never had no boys, after those 3 girls they decided to stop because they said that if they had another baby it was going to be a girl and that's why they stopped having babies.

Then when they earned more money they were doing houses because they wanted something bog for them so they were making a house in Hollister, California that was going to have two bathrooms three rooms, one kitchen, one living room, and one garage.

When the house was done they both decorated the house with flowers and other pretty things. All the family was very happy about the new house and the new furniture they had bought mostly everything was new because they didn't had many things in the trailer because it was too small. They met their neighbors and mostly all of them had kids already and they were also young too. What it was weird is that mostly the kids they had were little girls and a few boys, my dad was freaking out.

My father had a lot of experiences and he suffered a lot in his life thanks to him his parents moved to the United States and are staying and a little house in Oakland they are very proud of him because they told him that if he didn't come to the United States they wouldn't be here now and that they maybe could of died of starvation if it wasn't for him. My Father grew up poor, sad, with danger all over him then he had money and now he has a better life here in the United States. It is now more than 20 years that he hasn't gone to Mexico because he says that it remind him of many sad moments that he had in the past. So now he is happy here with his family and hopes it doesn't happened to anyone in his life.