

Get ready

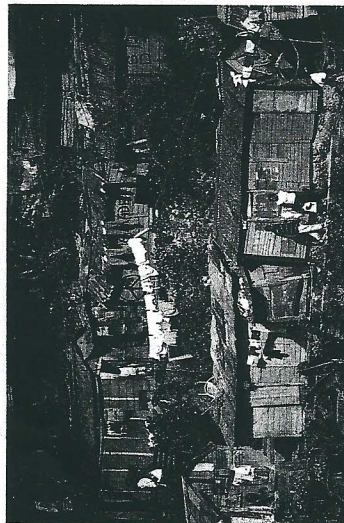
Describe the two photos briefly, then read the title and guess what "the dream" is, whose dream it is and who has to live up to it.

Living up to the dream



When Daleidy Grullon emigrated from the Dominican Republic six years ago, she could barely understand English. When she enrolled in school here, a 6th grade classmate translated the teacher's words for her. Daleidy copied by making a tattered English dictionary her constant companion. Yet, by the end of middle school, Daleidy had managed to achieve a 90 average. In her class of mostly American-born students, she ranked among the best. Now a senior in high school, she has her eye on college.

Daleidy's academic success was a surprise to her, but to researchers studying immigrants and their children, it is hardly unexpected. Over the past decade, a batch of studies has shown that children whose parents are immigrants or who



are themselves immigrants do better in school on average than youngsters whose families have been in the United States a generation or longer. What's more, the newcomers are racking up high grades despite language barriers, overwhelming poverty, and personal hardship.

One point is clear: Virtually all children from immigrant families seem to place a higher

value on education than US-born children from non-immigrant families do. Immigrant parents "feel it's absolutely critical to do well and to do very well in school," says Andrew J. Fuligni, an assistant professor of psychology at New York University, who interviewed 1,100 teenagers with Hispanic, East Asian, Filipino, and European backgrounds in California for a 1997 study. "They don't have this feeling of security that American-born families do."

When Daleidy Grullon brings home a poor grade or misses a homework assignment, for example, her mother sometimes cries. "That really hurts me," says the bright-eyed senior. "My father says, 'I sacrificed my life, and I do it for you so that you can have a good education.' That makes me think of having a career so that when my parents become old I can support them." Daleidy's father, a taxi driver, lived and worked alone in New York for 10 years to save up enough money to bring the rest of his family here. He left the Dominican Republic for the first time when his daughter was 2. "It's not something your parents have to tell you," adds Soshi Anam, a schoolmate of Daleidy's from Bangladesh and the president of their school's student government. "You sort of know you have to live up to their dream."

"Students who were born here take education for granted. They don't really care," says Edwin Zambrano, a tall, lanky junior from the Dominican Republic. "They're hangin' out and chillin' around with friends." One reason American-born students take education for granted, these students say, is because it's free. In many of the countries from which they emigrated, schooling costs money. Even if they don't have to pay tuition, their families might have to pay for books, uniforms, or lunches.

Another motivator is poverty. Once they get to the United States, the parents of immigrant children, even some who went to college in their home countries, are often forced to take low-paying jobs. "Right now, my mom is cleaning banks, and I'm helping her at night," says Maria Gallon, a Colombian-born senior at International High. "I think, 'What if I turn 37 and I'm still doing this?' It makes me realize, 'Maria, you do not want to do this for the rest of your life.'"

Debra Vinadero, in *Education Week On The Web*, June 7, 2000 (abridged)

1. live up to: se monter à la hauteur - 2. tattered: tout déchiré - 3. batch: ensemble - 4. rack up: accumuler - 5. grade (US): note - 6. student government: conseil des lycéens - 7. lanky: dégingandé - 8. tuition [tyu'fjɔn]: enseignement.

1. Understanding the text

Who is Daleidy Grullon? Use your *Workbook* to find out more about her family and their attitude towards education.

2. Going further

1. What qualities did Daleidy need to get where she is today? Why? Why is doing well in school so important to her?
2. What are the reasons why immigrant children do better in school than American-born children?
3. What difficulties do immigrant teenagers meet? Do you think they are all as successful as those in the article?
4. How do US-born students often feel towards school? Why?
5. Is succeeding in school important to you? Why or why not?

3. Phonologie

Les liaisons (Outils: p. 144)

Lisez la phrase ci-dessous à haute voix. Où ferez-vous les liaisons? Vérifiez à l'écoute et continuez cet exercice dans votre *Workbook*.

When Daleidy Grullon emigrated from the Dominican Republic six years ago, she could barely understand English. (l. 1)

4. Traduction guidée

En vous aidant des indications données, traduisez de "When Daleidy..." (l. 36) à "... support them." (l. 44)

1. a poor grade: « pauvre » ne convient pas ici.



EDUCATION WEEK ON THE WEB
(together with *Education Week* and *Teacher Magazine*) is published by Editorial Projects in Education Inc. based in Washington, D.C. They define themselves as "a nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to help raise the level of awareness and understanding among professionals and the public of important issues in American education." Funding comes in part from the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.
Website: www.edweek.org

2. misses: ne traduisez pas par « manquer »; que dirait-on en français?
3. her mother sometimes cries: trouvez une expression équivalente.
4. the (bright-eyed senior): attention au sens souvent démonstratif de the.
5. bright-eyed: transposez eyed en nom; bright a deux sens (« brillant » et « intelligent ») que vous pouvez rendre en étoffant (ajout d'un nom).
6. senior: élève en dernière année de high school; trouvez l'équivalent.
7. having a career: ne traduisez pas littéralement; quel est son objectif?
8. when my parents become old: attention à la traduction du temps.
9. I can support them: attention au faux ami.

Toolbox

Nouns: advice - misère - slum bidonville • diploma - performance résultats • grant (US) = scholarship (GB) bourse • handicap - achievement réussite.

Adjectives: hard-working - determined = strong-willed • well-paid = badly-paid • proud fier - worthy of [wɔ:θi] digne de - grateful reconnaissant • lazy - laid-back décontracté • illiterate [il'itɪrɪt] analphabète = illiterate.

Verbs and expressions: keep V-ing ne pas arrêter de - miss sb /sth - feel lonely - give up - disappoint = let down décevoir - despite [dis'paɪz] = s'en méfier - crush détruire - repay - care for aimer/s'occuper de - rely on compter sur - rise on /climb the social ladder - improve améliorer - toil away travailler dur - earn /make money.