I am a story. You are a story. My story begins on May 16, 1998 at Saint Boniface Hospital. I was born at 1:29 pm, 16 minutes after my twin sister Irena. My name is Serena Bichnhan Tonnu. I was named Serena because it means peace and serene, and my name’s meaning is similar to Irena’s name meaning. My mom is Chi Lam age 44. My mom came to Canada on July 10, 1985, at the age of 18. My mom's brother came to Canada in 1981 as a refugee and sponsored my mom and her family in 1985. When my mom came to Canada, she went to high school for 3 years and graduated. After she graduated, she worked at a pharmacy as a cashier from Monday to Friday. On the weekends, she worked at a restaurant for a total of 70 hours a week. In 1994, my parents got married and my mom quit her job at the restaurant and continued her job at the pharmacy. In 2008, my mom took a night course to become certify to do payroll. Now, mom is an accountant and she dose payroll for the company Canada Drugs. My dad is Hai Tonthat age 51. My dad came to Canada as a refugee on June 16 1983. When he came to Canada, he went to E.S.L (English as a Second Language) school for 6 months. After, my dad got a job as a Vietnamese interpreter. After a year of working as an interpreter, my dad quit and went to school to learn how to work with mentally handicap people. A year later, he got a job at Verstech Industries to work with mentally handicap people. He worked there for a year until he received a 4-year scholarship to University of Manitoba. In University of Manitoba, he took courses to become a social worker. After he graduated, he got a job to work with refugees as a settlement counsellor. After a while of working as a settlement counsellor, he became a housing counsellor, helping refugees find homes. Later on, he became a family sponsorship counsellor, helping people bring their families to Canada. Now, he is a refugee sponsorship manager and casually works as a Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Interpreter. My sister is Irena Tonnu. She is 13 years old and she is my twin sister. Irena is 16 minutes older than I am and the reason for that is that we were born during the Victoria Day long weekend. There were only a few doctors available that weekend. While Irena was being born, there was an emergency at another room so the doctor delivered Irena than ran to the other room while my mother waited. Irena and I have shared rooms since we were born. I would sleep closest to the window and Irena would sleep closest to the door. Like a novel, every book has a beginning and a meaningful event.

The event that had an impact on me was when I got my needle in 4th grade. I remember sitting outside of the room where people was getting their needle. When my name was called, I followed the nurse into the room. She told me to sit down and started to ask me questions while she put this liquid on my arm where. I did not answer many questions because I felted tired and lightheaded. When the nurse told me to breathe in and out, I knew that the needle was coming. When I was done getting my needle, I could barely open my eyelids because they felt so heavy and I felt dizzy. However, I sat there for a minute and I felt better. After that day every time I get a needle or get a blood test I try to keep my sugar level high by eating a lot before getting the needle and I try to calm myself by breathing in and out. But, doing all those things does not help me, I always have the feeling that I am going to faint or going to throw up and it always makes me think how am I going to become a paediatrician? How am I going to give someone a needle when I can barely handle getting mine?

I have always dreamed of what my future will look like, this is how I picture it. In the future, I see myself as a paediatrician. I want to become a paediatrician because I like to help children get better when they are sick. If I was a paediatrician I would work with children and see them grow up and how they are growing. To become a paediatrician I would have to go to University and medical school, I would have to work hard and try to keep my grades high. I would have to volunteer at hospitals to get a better understanding of how things work in a hospital. Another goal I have is to get my PHD before I am 30. I am going to achieve it by going to University and working hard. I have to try my best and try not to fail any tests or exams. I would like to get married before I am 28. To do that I think I would have to try to meet more people. In the future, I would like to have a wedding and I would like to plan my own wedding. I am going to achieve that by working hard and saving up enough money to have a wedding. In the future, I see myself as a mother, living in a beautiful house that is located in the suburbs. I will work hard and save up money to raise a family and to buy a house. In the future, I would like to travel to places that I have never been to. Places like New York. I have always dreamed of going to New York, going shopping there, buying clothes and seeing the statue of Liberty. I would also like to go to Vietnam and see where my parents grew up, where they went to school and see Vietnam’s beaches, taste the foods, and maybe see my family. However, I would have to work hard and save up enough money to go to these places. But, that is the future and I have a long way to get there, I will be focusing on the present for now.