



Childhood

My parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico to flee the ravages of poverty. They did not have a single penny when they came to the U.S. As I was growing up I remember my parents telling me how they would silently endure the rudeness of waiters and salespeople because they did

not speak grammatically correct English and realizing how much illiteracy paralyzes a person. In today's world a level of education is required to obtain position in almost any subdivision of employment. I am the third youngest of eight children. My father's extreme hardship takes him to read very little English. He attended school only to the third or fourth grade. He is the oldest of males in his family so he had to start working at a very young age to help my grandparents support the rest of the younger children. My mother, on the other hand, is completely illiterate not having attended any type of schooling what-so-ever. Due to my family's financial status none of my older five siblings were able to complete a college education.

VOCABULARY:

immigrate: To enter and settle in a country or region to which one is not native

illiteracy: The condition of being unable to read and write

ravages :To wreak destruction

poverty: The state of being poor; lack of the means of providing material needs or comforts.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the problem of the family?
2. How important to you is studying English?