

Rowina and Robina Rimal

[Speaker 2]

My name is Rowena and I'm 13 years old and I was born in Australia.

[Speaker 1]

My name is Robina and I'm 10 years old and I was born in Australia. I like to eat Sukka Roti because it's like really good and it's like a flat of roti that I can put like stuff on top of it. I like to eat it with my family a lot.

[Speaker 2]

I like eating Mamo, basically dumplings because of like the filling and everything inside and because we don't eat it often as well so it's more exciting. Well dad taught me how to make Mamo first. We just make it in the dining tables putting stuff in and forming it into shape.

[Speaker 1]

Most of it my mum taught me how to make like Sukka Roti and I make like when my mum makes them I help like roll the dough out so then and de-pop them into like the pan to make them. Potatoes, soup and sometimes dough most of the time.

[Speaker 2]

Put chicken and lettuce and stuff.

[Speaker 1]

Sometimes just fold them up and dip them in like the soup and like the dough or I put them like in and then like roll it up and eat it. I sometimes eat Fairy Bread and I find it really good. I don't really describe myself as an Australian.

I describe myself as a Nepali speaking Bhutanese. Like don't think, I don't really like to think that I'm Australian a lot.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah I don't tell my, well I tell my friends I was born in Australia and raised here and stuff but I tell them about how my background's like Nepali and from Nepal and Bhutan and stuff. Yeah I don't really consider myself Australian as well.

[Speaker 1]

Most of my friends are Australian but I have some, I have one Aboriginal friend and one from around the world.

[Speaker 2]

It's like we can adapt to more culture and learn about more and experience more.

[Speaker 1]

We can like also like if it wasn't really multicultural there would be most of like Australian like shops around but since it is multicultural there's like some like Indian shops, Nepali shops all around which is pretty good.

[Speaker 2]

You can just get stuff that we need like specific types of flour, rice.

[Speaker 1]

I like going into Nepali shops for candy like Hodzongula because I find it really good and you can also get like different things like if you want to make dal you can get dal there as well.

[Speaker 2]

There's like sweet ones and there's like spicy ones. They come in like different sizes. There's like small round ones and like big ones.

It's her favourite so she knows more.

[Speaker 1]

Most of the time the one I get come in like a small glass container with like lots of the small ones in them but sometimes we get plus there's also plastic ones they have like a bigger version but they're more sweet in them.

[Speaker 2]

The big ones are hard, the small ones are soft. Well I like dosi because like you bring the family together and we bring our family together and you can spend more time with them and I have, I like a festival but I don't remember the name.

[Speaker 1]

It's like where you have like your cousin brothers and they're like Diwali Yeah Diwali and like they like sit on like a mat and then you like go circles around them. I find that really fun because then you get to spend time with your cousins as well there.

[Speaker 2]

Well after we finish the thing we have to go and give our cousins some food and we go down to their house and they do it to us and they give us food.

[Speaker 1]

We wear like these dress kind of Some of them like there's like a kurta with like a pant and like a long sleeve top and there's also a sari which is like a long like dress thing that you wrap around yourself but you can still walk in it.

[Speaker 2]

Saris come in different colours and And different patterns Patterns yeah. We normally get them from Nepali shops or online.

[Speaker 1]

Sometimes we go around to people's house like Nepali people's houses which they sell someday like they sell some people's like sell like kids like saris and kurtas and stuff while also with like the women's and men's clothes.

[Speaker 2]

Like sad sometimes because of how they grew up and how they were like poverty and how they didn't have a lot of food and stuff growing up and they would be starving sometimes.

[Speaker 1]

I also feel sad but I also feel surprised at how brave they were and how they kept on going. It makes me feel more grateful that I get to go to like a good school and I have a good life here because my parents didn't like they were struggling a lot in Bhutan and Nepal.

[Speaker 2]

It makes me feel good that we didn't have to live like how they lived back then and we have more privilege in Australia here. I liked how like both my parents even though they didn't have enough they were teachers and my dad was a principal though like because they didn't have a lot growing up and their education as well but they still achieved and dreams and they became teachers and became a principal.

[Speaker 1]

I like how my dad didn't give up and he became a teacher at the age of 16 and I like how my mum like still had good culture and good education even though she was the only daughter in our whole household.

[Speaker 2]

Well something that surprised me was that my parents like my dad fell in love with my mum after seeing like less than a month. Yeah because it's like for us and like they've only met each other once and stuff. They got married not long after.

[Speaker 1]

Well I found it surprising that my dad was a teacher at 16 and a principal only at the age of like 20 to 22 and well I've pretty much already said it but I'm surprised that my mum has still like good culture and good education even though she didn't really have any education when she was in Bhutan and Nepal.

[Speaker 2]

When we get older we can keep the culture alive and it can keep on going from generation to generation and it teaches us and helps us to know more about our culture and like our background.

[Speaker 1]

I feel like it's important as well because it like helps us so we don't forget where we like our culture and all that so like if we stop doing it we'll forget about what like what was going on and why we do these like festivals and all that. I'd want them to know about like how like my parents like their grandparents all started and how we like I learnt all my like cultures and all that and how we don't want it to ever like die down.

[Speaker 2]

Me and my grandma like we have a granddaughter grandma relationship but me and my grandma act more like siblings than we do like granddaughter and grandma because me and her are like really close and stuff. She helps me as well with stuff and same with my grandpa he teaches us more about our culture and our gods and stuff our religion Hindu.

[Speaker 1]

When I was very young my grandma she would like help me she would like help my mum with me because my mum would like work very hard because she also had to take care of sometimes my cousins and my sisters or so that so me and my grandma whenever like my parents would try and feed me I wouldn't eat it unless my grandma fed me because I was very close to my grandmother and I'm still close to her and my grandpa um most mornings I go

over to like their room and like um well I don't know what it is I was like we kind of like go to the mandi. Pray to the god. Yeah like we pray to the gods and my grandpa most of the time teaches us more about it.

What I've learnt from him I'm pretty sure is that like most of the gods are mostly animals and all that from praying to the gods we don't act like you're like we pretty much lay down on the ground and there's different ways that women and men pray. It helps us be more encouraged and like give us more motivation to do stuff. Feels like like in the morning yesterday's pressure is pretty much gone it's like like everything's like new.

I would teach them like how like in most festivals we all like get together like all our cousins or aunties and stuff and we celebrate and most of the time even if like the family doesn't have like a good house they still have very kind hearts most of the time.

[Speaker 2]

And the different types of food. We've been to Nepal but we haven't been to Bhutan. In 2021 we went to Nepal and when we arrived in Nepal like the following day it was my birthday and we stayed at my dad's friend's house and as a gift they gave me this really beautiful bracelet as a birthday gift.

I still have it. And after we went to some schools and helped them out it was really fun hanging out with children and stuff.

[Speaker 1]

And then like with my dad's friends we like explored a lot. We went to the we also went to the refugee camp that my parents grew up in and we still there's there was this when we went to my dad's one there was this tree that my grandpa had planted a long time ago and we also went to the school that my dad used to work at. It was very fun there because they had like rabbits and like chicks there as well.

[Speaker 2]

We went to some of our cousins house and it was really fun hanging out with them and stuff mostly because we haven't seen them before but we all had instantly clicked so we were hanging out all the time. We used to go to the shops and stuff. The shops there were shops like everywhere you go there weren't much vehicles and the houses weren't like modern as it was and it was made out of bricks and yeah someone might have like mud.

[Speaker 1]

They do like cook differently and all that they like most of the time like make a fire by themselves instead of using like a stove they like also like instead of buying milk like milk their own cows and like the shops are mostly walk like you can just walk to them you don't have to drive far to like get to them like how you do here.

[Speaker 2]

And the school system was actually really different as well so if you you can be like 12 and still be in year three if you don't pass a test.

[Speaker 1]

Like roads and stuff they weren't like made out of like the like mud roads but unless like if you go somewhere there's like some like better areas. The bathrooms were different and like

the better roads different areas that you went to the currency was way different for one dollar bills and all that is like an actual note instead of coins.

[Speaker 2]

Well we didn't go to Mount Everest when we were there and I'd like to go visit Mount Everest.

[Speaker 1]

I don't really have like a place I'd like to visit but I'd like to go see like beautiful areas there like they have like lots of forests but like that look like pretty like probably like some like flowers all over the place.

[Speaker 2]

I'm trying to get into sports and like be a famous footballer and that make it for a bum. In university I want to go and study business and start my own businesses. I've been playing since I was five and right now I play for Rep and Murray.

[Speaker 1]

And United.

[Speaker 2]

And United. All my cousins play as well and I play with some of them sometimes like well I play above my age group and I like how because most of my players have been with United we've all been together since we were basically five little and we've all grew up together so we're all basically like part of one family and I like how how close we all are and how we know one another. I play captain as a girl and I help them find how like where they play and help them if they need any help with where they are and teach them more about how to play and stuff.

[Speaker 1]

When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian because I really like animals and I want to help them out because most of the time like animals get hurt really easily maybe when they're like out in the area or they're trying to protect their owners from something dangerous. At school I like the subjects I like is like maths. I like to do maths a lot because I find it really easy to me and I also like to play with my friends and do drama in school.

Yeah I play soccer and basketball as well.

[Speaker 2]

We went to different temples and some were different, some weren't. She got her ice cream stall in one of them. By the monkeys.

Yeah. I cried because I wanted my ice cream. Yeah there was monkeys everywhere that try to steal your food and stuff so you have to be careful.

Some of them you had to walk up hills and stuff. We went with one of our older cousins once and it was like really rocky and you had to walk all the way to the top and it was really tired.

[Speaker 1]

Like we, the one we went to that I got my ice cream stall in was when we got there we were in like this like van thing. We had to climb lots and lots of steps and throughout like near the

top there was like some people selling like ice cream there and when we reached the top there was still more stairs but there was like shops around there where you can like buy stuff that you can use for the temple and like the temple was really big and there was like lots of areas you could explore. Most of them had like shops out the front of it before you reach the temple so then you can like get stuff to like pray to the gods and all that.

[Speaker 2]

Also one of the temples we went apparently the god Krishna was, that died there or something like his body was found there and there was like a statue of it. In our religion girls get their nose pierced and my grandma has septum on like them pierced but they have normally they go. Me and my sister can go to Bhutan but our parents and grandparents can't because the third king of Bhutan had kicked my parents out.

[Speaker 1]

Because they didn't follow the rules.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah because they were Nepali like speaking in Bhutan.

[Speaker 1]

They would like follow the Nepali cultures and apparently if they didn't eat like beef and stuff in Bhutan they'd have to leave the country and they left because they followed, they decided to follow their cultures and they like decided to follow their cultures instead of listening to the king.

[Speaker 2]

Well one day I'd like to go to visit Bhutan and see the culture and like see how it is there because we don't really do Bhutan culture and like we don't celebrate them here because our parents were mostly Nepali raised like that. I'd like to see the different vibe.

[Speaker 1]

My like auntie she came from Bhutan and I'd like to like go to Bhutan and see her parents there and also see how they like celebrated and how different the places and like what languages they speak there like how if they speak any other languages except for like Jonkha and stuff.