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My great-grandparents were war refugees who migrated to the Philippines, the country where my parents grew up. Eventually, my parents migrated to the United States of America, the land of my birth. My ancestors, just like Mr. Martin Luther King Jr., lived in a country where they were considered an outcast. From the stories about my grandparents' struggles to the hardships that my parents once encountered as immigrants, discrimination is very real to me and not just a social issue from a movie or article. And even though, I was lucky enough to have never experienced it firsthand, I know that it doesn't mean that it's not occurring in some parts of the world or even here in my own country.

As a kid, my idea of equality was a bit shallow. For instance, I take offense when a kid in the playground refuses to play with me or if a classmate chooses to sit with someone else. But this situation does not even compare to what the African-American people and my own family experienced. Thanks to my hero, Mr. Martin Luther King Jr., who fought for equality! Because of his heroic work, I was able to exist in a world where segregation is a thing of the past. I owe this privilege to Dr. King and all the other people who were brave enough to stand up for what is right. I am perfectly aware that this gift of equality is fragile and may one day slip our grasp. That's why we all have to work together to keep this legacy alive. For my part, I promise to honor Mr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his advocacy by treating everyone around me with respect regardless of their race, nationality, or ability. One day in the future, I will also teach my kids to do the same...for this is the only way to keep our world a safe and fair place for all.