

# **Young Strugglers in Japan**

## **Breaking Down Cultural and Language Barriers**

Edited by Kaori Sasaki  
Literakoya Niigata

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## Prologue

This is a collection of interviews. The main eight interviewees spent their secondary school days in Niigata. Their nationalities and the length of period in Japan are different but they were all so called children with foreign backgrounds in Japan. As non-native Japanese students, they spoke about their experiences in Japan such as how they mastered the Japanese language, how they tried to make friends at school and how their lives are going nowadays. They also gave insightful tips for surviving the “strange world” for children struggling at school in Japan right now. Furthermore, based on their own experiences, they taught us what parents should do when they bring their children to Japan.

The interviewer— the author of this book— thinks we need to support all children to at least have access to basic education anywhere and also to take responsibility for that as a citizen of this society, just as much as their parents or the children themselves should. So, the author wishes this book can encourage those who are from overseas and suffering various problems in Japan, and those parents who will bring or brought their children to Japan. In addition, the author hopes this book can provide a chance for majority of Japanese to realize how this minority are trying hard every day.

Anyway thank you for picking up this book.

## **Acknowledgement**

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Kaori Sasaki  
Representative of Literakoya Niigata

## From Chapter 2

Q: You came to Japan in...

A: summer of 2016. At that time I was in the year of the entrance exam for high schools.

Q: Then it's in the junior high school that you'd decided to come to Japan, wasn't it? What did you think of coming to Japan?

## From Chapter 3

Q: How did you prepare for the entrance exam in high school?

B: It helped that my grandparents used to be teachers. My grandfather helped me a lot! Repetition, repetition, repetition! Thankfully I went to B high school (private) where many of the teachers spoke English.

Q: How was your high school life?

B: It was amazing. . . .

## From Chapter 7

Q: Anyway, you graduated after all. Didn't you tell to your teacher that you were bullied when you repeated a year?

G: No, I didn't. I thought he wouldn't have done anything even if I had told him that.

Q: I see. Then did you start your part time job when you were in high school?

G: Nope, I never wanted to work when I was in junior high and high school. I would often ask my mom for pocket money though.