The Story of **Pai**-**Hsiang Hsu**

My name is **Pai**-**Hsiang Hsu**. It is easy for people to remember my name because it sounds like “passion fruit” in Chinese. (A picture of **Pai**-**Hsiang** with dotted lines leading to a passion fruit).

Being a Librarian

My job duties are to make and proofread some braille books in the public library. There are some picture books for kids in our library. They are both in print and braille, so sighted and blind children and teachers or parents can read them together. What I do is to proofread them and print them out. I am also responsible for introducing the roles of our library. If there are some visitors, I show them around and present how to make braille books. Sometimes, I answer their questions about braille books. For example, there are some braille music scores in our collection. If someone inquires about the braille scores, we also answer their questions.

The enjoyment of being a librarian

Currently, there are some volunteers working with us in the library. Volunteers have different specialties and experiences. Working with volunteers is my biggest reward because every volunteer is so knowledgeable and resourceful. When we interact with these people, we learn a lot of information from them.

The difficulties in being a librarian

The difficulty in being a librarian is that some colleagues may not want to be helpful. Colleagues, who joined in our team during the same period as I did, would have more patience and empathy. They have been more considerate to colleagues who are visually impaired. However, for the younger colleagues who joined in the team later, they may not be so empathetic because they got the jobs from passing the national civil service examination and they simply do not know how to get along with librarian like me as a blind person. Maybe they were not asked to follow the work ethics of helping each other. Therefore, they care more about their own duties. They are not selfish but if you ask them to do more than their share of work, they would not do it. Actually, all of us work for same amount of salaries, so that everyone would not like to do things more than others do. Um, I am the one in charge of assigning tasks, and then I would have to overcome the challengeson my own. Their attitude is that “I can help you a little, but I won’t share your work”. Therefore, this is what I would have to accept and adjust.

Being a Busker ( A picture of **Pai**-**Hsiang Hsu** in the street with people behind her promoting her work.)

The introduction of being a busker

The street performances are really casual. In the beginning, …. Actually, I didn’t see that as a job in the beginning. However, when I’m short of money, I would give busker a thought, because this is what I’m good at. I first did street performances while I was traveling. Performing music in streets would provide me with some monetary donations from people so I could pay for my trips. Through this way, I could perform and travel at the same time. I just think that I can earn money to pay for the hotel expenses, meals, and transportation. I would not say that I could earn that much money through street performances, but it still helps a little bit. This is what my initiative is for being a busker in the first place.

The enjoyment of being a busker

When people came and enjoyed my singing by saying that my voice changed their lives or made them temporarily forget the unhappiness in their lives, it would be a great reward/comfort for me. At least, my performances really made someone change their views of lives or made them feel happier. This inspires me the most. I always feel happy while speaking in public, performing in streets and tour-guiding our library because I feel that I contribute something.

Sometimes even when I’m walking in the streets, there were people who admired me being so independent. I always told them that “You are the one whom I should say thank you to because you help me find my ways”.

The challenges in being a busker

The challenges of being a busker is that I have to memorize the music scores if I don’t get them in braille. First, I need someone to transcribe the music scores into braille and print them out for me. Most of the music scores are not available in braille. When I get the braille scores, I can only read them line by line and memorize them line by line. If I couldn’t memorize them, I would never sing or play the songs. Therefore, “learning music scores” is the most difficult part for me. Another difficulty of being a street performer is that I need someone to help with taking the musical instruments to the designated places. And the other is that I had no ideas about the surroundings around me when I got to a new place to do street performances. Therefore, I may have to find an assistant for help. People who are totally blind like us have to look for an assistant. I used to have an assistant who sometimes would doze off during my performances.

The words to the audience of this video

In my opinion, having positive thinking is really important. It means viewing everything in a positive way. Although it is difficult, if you think positively, you would have more positive energy to help yourself overcome barriers. Your life goes on no matter whether you are happy or not. So just keep an optimistic view of life.

Additionally, everyone is unique, so please respect and appreciate each other. Do not enlarge your own weaknesses or compare yourself with others. Everyone has his/her strengths. It’s important to appreciate each other, bear with each other, and respect each other. And, always trying to be grateful is really important in our life. Gratitude is not a slogan. It is from the inside of our hearts.

Keeping a grateful attitude will benefit yourself. If you are grateful for everything in your life, your resentment against others would decrease. And your blame on others would also decrease, then you will gain happiness.

 Final introduction

My name is **Pai**-**Hsiang Hsu**. My English name is Bear because I really love bears. I live in Taiwan. I am a librarian. I am responsible for proofreading braille books. In my free time, I am a masseuse and a street performer.