

Ljubljana, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Aida!

I'm writing because I miss you terribly. You can catch up on what is new over here and how I feel since we do not see each other that often.

As you know, I came to Slovenia in 2006. We moved here with my parents and sister from Bosnia. When I first came to Slovenia, everything seemed strange and different. At the very beginning the city seemed uncontrollable, strange and big. I saw the homeless in the streets for the first time, since I hadn't seen any earlier when we were living in Bosnia. We also had some problems with our neighbours. I soon realized schools were very weird here since pupils have to wear slippers at school. This was very surprising. The biggest difference is that primary schooling lasts for nine years here instead of eight like in Bosnia.

Everything was new to me and gradually I had to embrace all the differences. My parents were of the outmost help here, especially with school matters and homework. The teachers were very kind from the very beginning and they still are. I was scared at first, I worried about many things, and I was ashamed because I couldn't cope with new situations well.

Language presented the biggest problem. It was exhausting learning a new language every day for three months with different teachers. It was hard and I didn't understand a word at first so I had to try really hard and study a lot. The only thing that made things easier was that we studied topics I had already learnt in Bosnia in the first grade and here we studied the same topics in the second grade. I did well especially with the help of kind teachers. It is unusual, but here in Slovenia, the pupils get their first grades as late as in the fourth grade, in Bosnia we are graded from the first grade on. Teachers from the sixth grade on are very strict and precise. We also have more students' books and workbooks here than in Bosnia. I also have to go to the library from time to time to read a book.

I found friends easily here. I share many things with them, but I still miss my relatives, my old school, my house and friends terribly. I guess I still haven't got used to a new country and living without you. I often think about you all... I hope I am often in your mind, too. Please, give my best regards to all my relatives and friends. I'm coming to Bosnia for my Christmas holidays. I hope we meet then because I really miss you.

I can't wait to see you soon!

Love,

B.B.

Ljubljana, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

My dear friend Ivan!

It's been a while since I last wrote to you. I would really like to tell how I am.

I moved to Slovenia three years ago. My mum, dad ,brother and I moved here from Macedonia because my father got a better paid job here and we also wanted to discover a new country.

At first everything was new to me and I wasn' used to any of it. We had to wear slippers at school, I met new friends, new people, we got a new apartment and I had to deal with a new language.

I had my share of problems with the Slovene language, because I didn't learn it or heard the language before. I managed to speak Slovene after a few months, but I didn't know all the words. My schoolmates and teachers helped me a lot with learning the new language. I didn't have any other problems.

I made many friends here. We used to just play together. I am very outgoing and I love being around people. However, coming to Slovenia was hard. I didn't feel well coming here at first, but later things got better and better. I was scared and ashamed, especially at school. But when I think about the past, I have to say there are more pleasant memories than not.

I overcame all the differences I had encountered in the new country with the help of my parents, teachers and friends, but still I had to do most of the work myself.

Keep in touch, write back soon and tell me how you are.

Greetings from Slovenia,

XY

Ljubljana, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Ana!

I'm writing from Slovenia to tell you how things are here.

I moved here from Macedonia with my dad at the end of October 2011. Everything was new to me here: the school, friends, shops, the town... What I found the most unusual here was they have school snacks and lunches here and they have to wear slippers at school.

At the beginning I had some problems with the language. I still do, but fewer. I solve the language barrier by asking my schoolmates, my teachers or I look up words and answers on the internet. My friends and teachers but mostly my dad helped me tremendously with the language. If I don't understand something at school, my teachers help me by explaining what this means to me.

It really bothered me I had no friends at the beginning. Now, my schoolmates are very friendly to me and I found some really nice friends in my class.

I felt fine coming to Slovenia, I was never scared. However, I have to say I had some pleasant and some less pleasant moments.

The greatest obstacle in coming to a foreign country is most definitely the language, since there are significant differences between the languages. I really wish to speak Slovene perfectly.

Bye,

Mihaela Arsova