

Teacher-modeled Essay

Single incident

Visting Nihao

Background information

I still remember the time when I saw my dog again after having moved away. After two years of raising Nihao* from puppyhood in Argentina, my husband and I decided to move with our newborn daughter to the United States. Since we didn't know where we would live in the U.S. and Nihao was accustomed to running freely on a large "quinta" or large yard, we felt that we needed to leave her on the land. Fortunately, a kind, young family bought our house and kept Nihao.

Feelings then

The quinta was as lush and green as a forest. The fresh smell of eucalyptus trees filled the humid air. The enormous trees stretched out their arms to shade the huge yard from the scorching summer sun. The children's garden that my friend Alejandra and I had planted many years earlier was bursting with colorful vegetables. Green and white striped lawn chairs surrounded the small swimming pool. The quaint brick house stood quietly with its wooden blinds down to the floor.

Setting/
Descriptive language

First, I saw Nihao, my golden Labrador mut, come running toward the blue gate at the edge of the driveway. She looked like an Egyptian princess with dark lines around her eyes coming to see who called on the queen. I called out to her, "Come, mi reina*, come here!" She still understood English perfectly and responded to my command.

Next, Nihao and I locked eyes. I told her that I was so sorry that we had to leave her. She offered me her paw through the gate, which seemed like a gesture of understanding. I pet her golden hair repeating, "You are my good girl; you are my good girl."

Finally, it was time to say goodbye again. "Zai jian*, my little friend," I whispered. I could hear my friend, Alejandra calling me from the corner to return to her house to drink mate tea. While it was very sad to see my beloved puppy again, I still think that we did the right thing by leaving her with the house and a loving family. Although we might eventually get another dog, I will never forget my two years in Argentina with Nihao.

Feelings now

- "Ni hao" means 'hello' in Chinese
- "mi reina" means 'my queen' in Spanish
- "Zai jian" means 'goodbye' in Chinese