

HOME

By Dana Alrejfal

Home

H-O-M-E

Four letters

One syllable

Seems simple enough.

Yet that one, simple, four lettered, one-syllabled word

holds many representations, meanings, and emotions

To many different people

Around the world.

What does the word HOME mean to you?

Some might say it's the place you grew up in

The place that contains all of your childhood memories, that after one glance, it reminds you of all the happy times, sad times, and embarrassing times that you shared with your family and closest friends.

Some might say that wherever you live right now is considered home

Some might say it's the place you were born in, or the place you come from, or the place that you lived in the longest.

There are many opinions of the word HOME

None of them are wrong

They are just different, unique to every person

Each representation of the word HOME tells a little about the person's values and priorities in life.

Like everyone in this room, I have my own opinion of the sentence that defines the word HOME.

To me, the word HOME doesn't define four walls and a roof, it defines much, *much* more than that. It doesn't only represent an area or building but also the people that cause you to call this so-called place your HOME.

To me, home is the place that I'm most comfortable in being who I am.

It is where I unleash my true identity to the world.

Where my fear of not fitting the title of "perfect" simply disappears.

Where I stop hiding behind a mask that society has chosen it to be, what they call, "normal".

It is a place that, once faced with a difference of culture or race, embraces it rather than isolating and discriminating the person carrying that lifestyle or inherited gene.

It is a place that allows you to be who you are, so that happiness comes to you from within, no need for pretending.

No need for you to plaster on a fake smile when your face already holds a big wide toothy grin that made its way there naturally, not to please anyone else but you.

Basically, it is a place where you can be you.