

***【First Place】***

## **What can bring our family a strong bond?**

**T. O.**

Do you often do household chores? Do you like household chores? As you know, there are a lot of domestic chores, such as hanging out the laundry, folding the laundry, cleaning the rooms, preparing meals, doing the dishes, and so on. — a huge amount of work!

In your house, who is responsible for these endless chores? These days it is common for women to have a job. In our family, my mother works, and in addition to her busy job, at home she has a lot of chores. Often, she asks me to help her with cooking, washing and so on. Honestly speaking, in the past I didn't like to help her with chores. I often complained that I was so exhausted after studying and hard club activities that I couldn't do anything! I was such a bad daughter. But something happened that totally changed me!

When I was a junior high school student, my mother got really sick and she couldn't do any housework. So, I had to do all the housework instead of her. I became a junior high school housewife! Every morning I got up early, and after the laundry and cooking, I rushed to school. Every evening after club, I hurried home, took in the laundry and cooked dinner. I was so surprised to find how endless housework is! And at last I thanked my mother from the bottom of my heart. She never complained about household chores, however tired she was! I realized that thanks to my mother's hard work, our family was able to lead a happy life. Until then, I had taken it for granted. I never realized how much my mother helped each of us.

One day, I finally conveyed my gratitude to her. Then, my words of thanks made her so happy. She was really moved by my words and she also conveyed her thanks for my contribution. At that moment, I realized a strong bond with her. This helped me hit upon a good idea. I wanted my father and my sister involved in this strong family connection. So, I made two family rules.

First, everyone in our family should do some household chores every day.  
Second, everyone in our family should say "Thank you" to each other.

Now, all our family members are following these rules. And our family and home have changed a lot. My home has become a place of relaxation and relief.

Why don't you start doing household chores and saying "Thank you" to your families?

Thank you for listening.

あなたはよく家事をしますか？あなたは家事が好きですか？みなさんも知っている通り、家庭での家事は洗濯、掃除、皿洗いなどがあります、とても多いです！

あなたの家では、誰がこの終わることのない家事をしていますか？最近、主婦も外で働いている人が多く居ます。私の家庭でも、母は外で働いていて、この仕事に加えて家では、大量の家事をしています。よく母は私に家事を手伝うよう言ってきます。正直に言うと、前までは私は家事を手伝うことがあまり好きではありませんでした。勉強やしんどい部活で非常に疲れていて、何もできません。私は悪い女の子でした。しかし、ある出来事が私を変えたのです。

私が中学生の頃、母が病気を嫌い、家事をすることができなくなってしまいました。だから、私が全ての家事をしなければならなかったのです。私は中学生の主婦になりました！朝は早起きして洗濯とお弁当を作り、ダッシュで学校へ登校し、夕方、部活が終わるとすぐに家に帰り、洗濯を取り入れ夜ご飯を作るような毎日が続きました。私は家事が多すぎることに驚きを隠せませんでした。