

Name:

Day One

Ru's Story

Part 1: Silent read

→ Young immigrants are starting to tell their stories. Read silently.

When Ru was eight years old, her mother brought her to New York from China. Ru spoke about learning to live as a young, undocumented immigrant in the video, *Why We Rise*.

At first, Ru worked hard in school, aiming to attend college. Then, a friend said something that really upset her. “She said no matter how good I did in school, without a green card, I’m going nowhere.” Ru realized that other kids would have opportunities for college and careers, but for Ru, these doors were closed. Without a green card, she could not leave to visit the rest of her family in China. She learned to live with the constant threat of being found out and detained. After listening to her friend’s advice, Ru transformed from an eager student to an uncommitted one. She stopped studying and doing homework and began skipping school.

Now Ru works 12-hour shifts, six days a week, at a Chinese restaurant. Her parents have similar jobs out of state, while Ru’s little brother stays in China with their grandparents. She dreams of the day when the family can all be together again.

Ru’s life is hard, but it also contains hope and aspiration. Her personal struggles spurred her to help found a group of young Asian immigrants, #UndocuAsians. They work to tell their stories and change the laws. She takes just one college class, which is all she can afford. “I would say it’s not the best life, but it’s the only one I can have right now,” she said.

Source: *Why We Rise* (video funded by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund). Retrieved from <http://www.aaldef.org/raise.html>



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What changed for Ru when she found out she had no green card?

What is Ru’s job right now?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

When Ru was eight years old, / her mother brought her to New York / from China. // Ru spoke about learning to live / as a young, undocumented immigrant / in the video, / *Why We Rise*. //

At first, / Ru worked hard in school, / aiming to attend college. // Then, / a friend said something / that really upset her. // “She said / no matter how good I did in school, / without a green card, / I’m going nowhere.” // Ru realized / that other kids would have opportunities for college and careers, / but for Ru, / these doors were closed. // Without a green card, / she could not leave to visit the rest of her family / in China. // She learned to live with the constant threat of being found out / and detained. // After listening to her friend’s advice, / Ru transformed from an eager student / to an uncommitted one. // She stopped studying and doing homework / and began skipping school. //

Now Ru works 12-hour shifts, / six days a week, / at a Chinese restaurant. // Her parents have similar jobs / out of state, / while Ru’s little brother stays in China / with their grandparents. // She dreams of the day / when the family can all be together again. //

Ru’s life is hard, / but it also contains hope and aspiration. // Her personal struggles / spurred her to help found a group / of young Asian immigrants, / #UndocuAsians. // They work to tell their stories / and change the laws. // She takes just one college class, / which is all she can afford. // “I would say it’s not the best life, / but it’s the only one I can have right now,” / she said. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.