

THIS IS WHAT WE EAT AT HOME

ARIEL NOUR NADEERA ISHIKA, 15

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Ariel: My name is Ariel. I have multiple hobbies, such as drawing and listening to music.

Shiyun: Do you feel that food is the source of stress in the family? For example, you don't know what to eat, don't know what to tapau (takeaway food), and then like, people will quarrel about food arrangement.

Ariel: Yeah, yeah, pretty much. It all started way before when my grandfather passed away. We started tapau-ing food because no one could cook at home. Sometimes we cook at home, but very rare. Often, we tapau food. We would argue on like... Because I prefer Western, my grandmother prefers Asian culinary. So we would, like, argue on what food to eat.

Shiyun: So before that, your grandma didn't cook also?

Ariel: She did, a lot, before she went into her stroke. She would cook for the whole family to eat.

Shiyun: What kind of things do you usually tapau for her?

Ariel: Usually, it would be like porridge or beancurd, because it's all soft food, because she doesn't have the teeth to bite.

Shiyun: You mentioned before in the project that one of the things you want to do is to cook for yourself.

Ariel: Yeah. I want to cook for myself, but the thing is, I can't buy the ingredients yet.

Shiyun: So you're thinking that you will slowly save up so that you can take care of your own meals?

Ariel: Yeah.

Shiyun: What sort of Western cuisine that you like to tapau and eat?

Ariel: Mostly it would be fish 'n chips, so I can share with my grandma, because fish is a soft thing to eat.

Shiyun: It feels like your mealtime at home is very much about sharing with your grandmother.

Ariel: Yeah, because she doesn't eat much.

Shiyun: In this project, did you feel like you discovered something new?

Ariel: I learned that my grandmother have a certain thing that she likes to eat. She doesn't mind eating anything at all... what I just found out.

Shiyun: Oh, really? So before the project, you always thought she eats douhua (beancurd)?

Ariel: Yeah.

Shiyun: After that day she told you something else?

Ariel: Yeah, she said that she would eat anything. She would eat anything I would buy. She's a funny person sometimes.