

## **My Two Years of Homeschooling: A Journey of Learning, Bonding, and Growth**

Written by former homeschool teacher Susana and former homeschool student Lujain

Homeschooling my daughter for two years was one of the most meaningful and transformative experiences of our lives. What began as an alternative way of learning soon became a precious journey where we grew—not just in knowledge, but also in our relationship with each other.

During those two years, we learned far more than academic lessons. Every day was an opportunity to explore, discover, and understand the world together. Beyond textbooks, science experiments, and language practice, we built a deeper connection: patience, trust, and mutual respect. The one-on-one teaching style allowed us to focus completely on her pace and needs. Without the distractions of a crowded classroom, studying became much more efficient. We progressed rapidly, moving smoothly from Primary 3 level all the way to Secondary 2 subjects, including challenging areas like Biology and Geography.

These two fruitful years did more than advance her academics. They helped my daughter build real confidence in herself. She learned how to think independently, interact calmly with peers, and stay true to herself instead of being easily influenced by others. Most importantly, she developed the inner strength to face social situations with courage and clarity.

After our homeschooling journey, she made the thoughtful decision to return to a traditional school. She felt ready to step outside the comforting world of our home and take on real-life challenges in the wide world, where challenges are tough obstacles, but I was truly confident she can face them and that she will be able to learn far more from these obstacles in life. For me, this was a moment of both pride and peace. I no longer worried about letting her go, because I knew she was leaving home with a strong “armor” of confidence, resilience, and self-awareness that we had built together during those years at home.

Today, she is among the top 5 students in her grade and is well-known and admired by her teachers for her diligence, maturity, and positive attitude. After achieving so much, she told me that she once never regretted being homeschooled and is extremely grateful to have such a big learning experience, she described it as her “developing moment” where she learned such precious things that a traditional school could never teach no matter the effort, because she said that when you are close with your family, you realize so many things that you have never done

before, and how your attitude becomes better, and less influenced by your peers, it is a time for young children to plant their “roots” in somewhere where people care for you: Family.

Looking back, I realize that parenting and education are really all about timing. It is not about rushing a child into the world, but about waiting until they are ready—ready with knowledge, ready with courage, and ready with a heart full of confidence. Those two years of homeschooling gave her exactly that: a strong foundation, a loving bond, and the bravery to face the world brightly.

## VOCABULARY EXPLAINED

### 1. Transformative

Meaning: Causing deep, meaningful change.

From the text: “one of the most meaningful and **transformative** experiences of our lives.”

### 2. Mutual

Meaning: Shared between two people.

From the text: “patience, trust, and **mutual** respect.”

### 3. Resilience

Meaning: The ability to stay strong or recover from challenges.

From the text: “a strong ‘armor’ of confidence, **resilience**, and self-awareness.”

### 4. Foundation

Meaning: A strong base that supports future growth.

From the text: “a strong **foundation**, a loving bond...”

### 5. Influenced

Meaning: Affected or shaped by others.

From the text: “less **influenced** by your peers.”

### 6. Pace

Meaning: The speed at which someone learns.

From the text: “focus completely on her **pace** and needs.”

### 7. Thoughtful decision

Meaning: A choice made carefully and wisely.

From the text: “she made the **thoughtful decision** to return...”

### 8. Inner strength

Meaning: Emotional courage and confidence from within.

From the text: “she developed the **inner strength** to face social situations...”

### 9. Developing moment

Meaning: A period of personal growth.

From the text: “she described it as her ‘**developing moment**’ ...”

### 10. Armor (metaphorical)

Meaning: Emotional protection or qualities that help someone face challenges.

From the text: “a strong ‘**armor**’ of confidence, resilience, and self-awareness.”

## **READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

### **A. Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)**

Choose the best answer.

1. What did homeschooling eventually become for the mother and daughter?

- A. A temporary experiment
- B. A stressful routine
- C. A meaningful journey of growth
- D. A replacement for school

2. What helped the daughter progress quickly in her studies?

- A. Online classes
- B. One-on-one teaching without distractions
- C. Extra tutoring
- D. Shorter school hours

3. Which subjects did the daughter study at a Secondary 2 level?

- A. History and Music
- B. Biology and Geography
- C. Physics and Economics
- D. Chinese and Literature

4. Why did the daughter choose to return to traditional school?

- A. She disliked homeschooling
- B. She wanted to face real-life challenges

C. She wanted more free time

D. She missed her old classmates

5. How is the daughter performing after returning to school?

A. She struggles academically

B. She is average

C. She is among the top 5 students

D. She avoids participating in class

### **B. Close-Ended Questions**

Answer in one sentence.

1. How did homeschooling help the daughter develop confidence?

2. What “armor” did the mother believe her daughter carried when returning to school?

3. What did the daughter describe as her “developing moment”?

4. What did the mother realize about parenting and education at the end of the journey?

5. How did homeschooling affect the daughter’s attitude and peer influence?

### **C. Open-Ended Questions**

Answer in 2–4 sentences.

1. In what ways did homeschooling strengthen the relationship between mother and daughter?

2. Why might homeschooling allow a child to progress faster academically?

3. What personal qualities did the daughter gain that helped her succeed after returning to school?

4. How does the daughter’s reflection show the value of family in a child’s development?

5. What message does the mother want to convey about “timing” in education?

### **D. Extended Response / Critical Thinking**

Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences).

“Do you think homeschooling can help children build stronger character compared to traditional schooling? Use examples from the text to support your opinion.”

### **E. Activities**

#### **1. Vocabulary in Context**

Match the word to its meaning.

a. Transformative

b. Resilience

c. Mutual

d. Foundation

e. Influenced

1. A basic structure or starting point

2. Affected or shaped by something

3. Causing deep and meaningful change

4. Shared between two people

5. The ability to recover or stay strong

#### **2. Sequencing Activity**

Put the events in the correct order (1–5).

- A. The daughter progressed from Primary 3 to Secondary 2 subjects.
- B. The daughter returned to traditional school.
- C. The mother and daughter built trust, patience, and respect.
- D. The daughter became one of the top 5 students in her grade.
- E. They began homeschooling as an alternative learning method.

### **3. Creative Activity: “Roots of Family” Reflection**

The daughter said homeschooling helped her “plant her roots in family.”

Write 3–4 sentences explaining what this metaphor means and how family can shape a child’s growth.

## ANSWER KEY

### A. Multiple-Choice Answers

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C

### B. Close-Ended Answers

1. It helped her think independently, interact calmly, and stay true to herself.
2. Confidence, resilience, and self-awareness.
3. Her homeschooling experience, where she learned things traditional school could not teach.
4. That education is about timing and waiting until a child is ready.
5. She became less influenced by peers and developed a better attitude.

### C. Open-Ended Sample Answers

1. Homeschooling strengthened their relationship through shared learning, daily exploration, and building patience, trust, and respect.
2. One-on-one teaching allows full attention to the child's pace, without classroom distractions, making learning more efficient.
3. She gained confidence, independence, calm social behavior, and courage to face challenges.
4. Her reflection shows that family closeness helps children understand themselves, grow emotionally, and develop strong values.
5. The mother believes children should enter the world only when they are ready—emotionally, academically, and mentally.

### **D. Extended Response**

(Answers will vary; teacher evaluates based on reasoning and text support.)

### **E. Activities Answer Key**

#### **1. Vocabulary**

a-3

b-5

c-4

d-1

e-2

#### **2. Sequencing**

1. E

2. C

3. A

4. B

5. D