



EILEEN GU

My name is Eileen Gu. I'm from San Francisco, California. I'm a professional skier but only on weekends. I do it full heartedly and wholeheartedly and happily and same goes for school, I guess. A lot of school work on the plane. Don't you say that!

When I was eight years old, my mom was faced with a decision to put me in either race team or in free-skiing. She thought that anything would be better than racing because racing was too dangerous. So she thought whatever this free skiing thing was, that's where we'll go.

January of 2019 I was at my third World Cup in Italy and I was wearing the #1 bib for the first time, which was a really big deal. And I had fallen both of my first two runs but I was able to take a really deep breath and really think about why I was doing the sport and what I loved about it and a turning point of being able to kind of manage my own stress and yeah I ended up winning my run. And that was actually my first World Cup win. So, big lesson right there, yeah.

比自己有更大的视野 It roughly translates to have a greater perspective of things that are greater than myself. It was really about inspiring younger girls who maybe didn't know what the sport was, who didn't know what extreme sports in general were.

Bobby has been a huge inspiration for me. Pretty much from my first time competing when I was nine years old in 2013. I remember you signed a poster for me.

“What’s going on?” “I got a surprise for you, right here.” “OMG!”

When I was nine, you signed a poster and you said “Eileen Gu, you're gonna crush it” and you signed it.

Honestly, it's a dream come true. It's so exciting to be able to represent Red Bull in 2022, in China, as I'm competing for China actually, so on home soil and being able to do that with a brand that I really respect, supporting me, will be really exciting.



EILEEN GU

A unique success
not a formula.

With Eileen Gu winning the gold medal in the women's freestyle skiing big air competition at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, one of the factors that has drawn global attention is her education. Apart from skiing, the 18-year-old athlete has won admission to Stanford and has a successful career in modeling.

Eileen prompted the Chinese people into a déjà vu "tiger mom" moment. Tiger parents are known for strict discipline, high expectations, and a focus on excellence. "Tiger mom" Amy Chua's daughters have given violin recitals at the Carnegie Hall, with one going to Harvard and another to Yale. One of her daughters clerked for Justice Brett Kavanaugh of the US Supreme Court.

Now, many parents in China attribute Eileen Gu's success to her mom. But parents trying to turn their children into another Eileen Gu may be dismayed to find the cut-and-paste function does not work in real life. Not to belittle the role of individual resolve and efforts, we should acknowledge that socioeconomic status and family resources play important roles in a person's development. We are not talking about Jack London who used sheer will power to blaze a trail with a pen and some paper. Sports take a lot more.

Having a child who plays tennis for the school's varsity team, I know how much sports can cost. Young athletes take private lessons, buy tennis shoes and rackets, entry fees to compete in tournaments, chipping in for snacks, all add up and become costly. In addition, rich families can afford to have a parent staying home to drive a child to sports events without having to worry about missing work and pay. No wonder rich school districts have better teams.

Yet all of these conditions are nothing compared with some other sports, say, freestyle skiing in half-pipe, slope-style or big air. Eileen was fortunate to have all the stars aligned in the direction of her success. Most of all she has a passion for skiing, an upbringing with a skier mom, and coaches who supported her.

For many Chinese parents, success stories like those of Eileen Gu, concert pianist Lang Lang, and Sophia and Louisa (children of Amy Chua) seem to suggest that pushing children to achieve success works. What they often fail to realize is that their parents have the financial, academic and social resources needed to ensure their children achieve success.

Lang Lang's parent is a musician. Amy Chua is a professor at Yale. Eileen Gu's mom Gu Yan attended Beijing University, earned her MBA at Stanford, is a skiing coach, and has a successful venture capital firm. Such parents can afford an elitist education for their children, and education which has both academic enrichment and extracurricular fulfillment.

But I don't mean to say the rest of the parents just need to lie flat and wallow in misery.

First, I encourage governments to focus on public education. If a family fails to provide the right conditions for their children to succeed achieving their goals, I hope the public education system can pick up. Let no potential Olympian stop dreaming due to their families' inability to pay for private lessons or practices. Governments, businesses and non-profit organizations, too, should do their bit to provide equitable educational opportunities for children.

Second, more universities should rethink the use of standardized tests as the main criterion for admission. To be sure, the pandemic is accelerating the demise of standardized tests as one of the many methods to assess applicants.

Those schools that have not done so should follow. Standardized test scores have come to increasingly depend on a family's riches. Tests like SAT and ACT used to measure a person's intelligence and aptitude, but obviously smart people have figured out "test-taking strategies" that rich families can take advantage of through expensive remedial instruction.

In a sense, the "double reduction" policy back in China, which refers to restrictions on school homework and private training, may play a role in easing the education inequality caused by differences of family backgrounds.

And third, I encourage fellow parents to be aware of reality. Eileen Gu is one in a million. Just do the best you can for your own children in whatever way you can. Not every child has to perform at the Carnegie Hall or compete in the Olympics to be a happy person.

Besides, success is really overrated in terms of living a fulfilling and impactful life. My son, who plays tennis, has taught me that the reason for playing tennis is learning to succeed without being mean or to fail without losing hope. There is a lot of fun hitting balls, chewing the fat with coaches and fellow players, and occasionally winning a game or two at school or in a tournament.

And my daughter, who plays the violin, has taught me the joy of service as she played with her high school band Revolution Strings for schools, churches, nursing homes and at weddings. They have found love and joy in sports and music. Their joy and love are all the satisfaction I need as a parent.

DISCUSS IT

WOMEN'S ISSUES

1. What are women best at?
 2. What are some bad things about being a woman?
 3. In today's world which is better? To be a woman or to be a man?
 4. In marriage, who should do the household work - the man or the woman?
 5. Women on TV, in the movies - are they shown like it is in reality?
 6. Do women have a different personality in the office, in business than men?
 7. How have things changed for women since your mother's time?
 8. Why do women like fashion so much and spend so much time looking "pretty"?
 9. In religion, are women treated as equal to men? Give an example.
 10. "A woman's place is in the home and raising children." Do you agree?
-

DISCUSS IT

WOMEN'S ISSUES

1. What is the first word you think of when I say, "Women"?
2. What are some good things about being a woman?
3. Why do women generally earn less than men for the same job?
4. Do you think women / girls are worse at math and science than men / boys?
5. Why are there so few political leaders that are women?
6. Why are most teachers women? Do women make better teachers?
7. Should women be able to fight wars and be in the army?
8. Who are the greatest women, the most inspiring women in your country?
9. What are some negative "traits" and things about most women?
10. In 50 years, how will things be different for women?

Name:

Date:

THE STORY OF _____

Research A Famous Woman

In the boxes below, share your story! What important events have happened in this person's life? Research and then present the information to the class.

The form consists of seven hand-drawn boxes connected by lines, each with a specific label for organizing research on a famous woman. The boxes are:

- Personal Information:** Located at the top left, with a lightning bolt icon and a blue squiggle below the label.
- Family Life:** Located below Personal Information, with a lightning bolt icon and a red dot to its right.
- Major Accomplishments:** Located at the bottom left, with a blue star icon and a yellow squiggle to its left.
- 3 Interesting Facts:** Located at the bottom center, with a blue squiggle to its right.
- Early Life:** Located in the middle right, with a yellow star icon and a red semi-circle above it.
- Famous Quote:** Located at the top right, with a red star icon to its right.
- What Their Life Teaches Us:** Located at the bottom right, with a blue lightning bolt icon to its right.

The boxes are decorated with various colorful icons and squiggles, including stars, lightning bolts, dots, and squiggles in blue, yellow, red, and teal.

Celebrities & Famous Women



A handy list of famous women to research, play guessing games with and more ...

Miley Cyrus
Kim Kardashian
Joni Mitchell
Margaret Thatcher
Ellen DeGeneris
Indira Ghandi
Angela Merkel
Sandra Day O'Connor
Selena Quintanilla-Pérez
Lady Gaga
Katy Perry
Maya Angelou
Anne Frank
Jane Austin
Elle McPherson
Jennifer Aniston
Malala Yousafzai
Minnie Mouse
Alanna Morrisette
Brittney Spears
Paris Hilton
Madonna
Mary Magdalene
Benazir Bhutto
Kevin Spacey
Kylie Minogue
Mother Teresa
Cleopatra
Billie Jean King
Bridgette Bardot
Coco Chanel
Eleanor Roosevelt
Jacinda Ardern
Beyonce Knowles

Oprah Winfrey
Ruth Ginsberg
Queen Elizabeth II
Rachel Carson
Isadora Duncan
Whoopie Goldberg
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Queen Victoria
Courtney Love
Princess Diana
Marilyn Monroe
Marie Antoinette
Catherine the Great
Angelina Jolie
Grace Kelly
Scarlett Johansson
Aung San Suu Kyi
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Agatha Christie
Susan B. Anthony
Emily Dickenson
Florence Nightengale
Emmeline Pankhurst
Bette Davis
Zsa Zsa Gabor
Catherine de Medici
Edith Piaff
Katharine Hepburn
Amelia Earhart
Billie Holliday
Eva Peron
Marlene Dietrich
Juliette Binoche
Yoko Ono

Serena Williams
Nancy Pelosi
Simone Biles
Nicole Kidman
Michelle Obama
Janis Joplin
Joan Rivers
JK Rowling
Hilary Clinton
Elizabeth Taylor
Florence Griffith
Julia Roberts
Meryl Streep
Helen Keller
Jane Austen
Jessica Simpson
Pamela Anderson
Anne Boleyn
Beatrix Potter
Sappho
Beatrix Potter
Maria Sharapova
Adele
Jane Goodall
Golda Meir
Theresa May
Wangari Maathai
Harriet Tubman
Anna Pavlova
Elizabeth Taylor
Lindsay Vonn
Billie Jean King
Wilma Rudolph
Naomi Osaka
Rondha Rousey



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