

Name: Kimhor Bun1

Team name: trio-eco-wizards

Username: angelyrose

School: Liger Leadership Academy

Dear Mom,

I acknowledge that I never said “I love you” to you a single time in my life, over the past 17 years, because in our Khmer culture, we rarely explicitly express our love to those we cherish. The depth of your love, the divinity of your patience, and the dearness of your motherhood are the greatest present that a son could ever ask for. When I think of all the remarkable memories with you, a lifetime is not enough to celebrate those wonderful moments. Amid the joy and sorrows, triumph and struggles, the ups and downs, you have kept me grounded. You have taught me to be caring, compassionate, and loving unconditionally.

Throughout my lifetime, you have always been a friend, confidant, defender, and cheerleader to me growing up. You let me follow all my dreams, and try all my infatuations. You have allowed me the independence to direct my decisions and drive my life to all the adventures. You have always been by my side and trusted every word of me, although I lied to you sometimes. You have the most supportive, most appreciative, and most forgiving.

You work industriously day and night, and I have seen you give up your comforts, toil hard, and make sure that our family lived our life comfortably. You gave up your life so that I could have a better one. You were the only one in the family who understood when I needed a hug or space for myself. From the first day, I was born in this world, I have asked a lot of you growing up and never saw you complain or deny my request. I always find ways to fulfill my wish even if it is difficult. Your sacrifice and perseverance have taught me the role of a mother undertaking to root for her child.

I would never have this day without your support and encouragement in life. You always raise me when I am down. I always tell myself not to give up my life. You made me understand that success is not final and failure is not fatal, but to try harder. I tore out writing this letter to you because your actions and love meant so much to me. I don't think there are any words to describe how much love you had for me, and I don't think there are any words to describe how grateful I am to have such an incredible mother like you.

Thank you for being my dearest mother. Thank you for being a shoulder to cry on, an ear to lend to my problems. Thank you for making me who I am today. Thank you for making me appreciate the love of others. Thank you for making me understand the meaning of life. Thank you for influencing my life and gifting me with the warmth of your motherhood. I will always cherish you, mom.

Hugs and Kisses

Your son (Kimhor Bun)

Personal Reflection:

I am thankful for this experience. It is a great chance for me to step out of my comfort zone to express my grateful gratitude to my loved one. I don't think I would ever have a chance to write my mom this grateful letter without participating and undertaking this challenge. It made me reflect on the precious moments that I had with my mom, and what she has done raising me up. I cried out while writing the letter, because reflecting on the memories I had with my mom, I cannot believe that she sacrificed so much of her time and efforts just to make me live the best life. This challenge is the moment that I stopped and smelled the rose of others. Without this experience, my mom might never see my expression I had for her, and might never know how grateful her son is to have such a beautiful and amazing mother.