

Last version of the Amir story

Written by all students (31) in 1STC at Thor Heyerdahl Upper Secondary School

...They went to the next station to take the next train to finish the travel to Hirtshals, arriving there around 3pm. They waited until 2 am when they then boarded the ferry to Larvik. When they boarded the ship, they were hungry and tired. They decided to get something to eat in the cafeteria. The prices were surprisingly high, so they had to share two slices of pizza. One pizza slice had cheese and ham on it, and the other had pepperoni, cheese, bacon and ham. I don't think any of us got satisfied or full, but it was better than nothing. Luckily, it was free water there, so the whole family drank about seven cups each, to fill our starved stomachs. We sat down on a bench and shared what we had bought...

Eline, Selma, Emma, Fredrik

...The ferry was crowded, and it was hard to find any place to rest. The result was a very exhausting trip. Even though we had travelled with a ferry before, we all got seasick, and things only got progressively worse. We arrived in Norway in the evening. We were very tired, and we didn't know what to expect. The first thing we saw was a city at the end of a fjord, Larvik. The city was located around the seashore and kept on going up towards a forest. A beautiful city. An informant told us to walk towards the exit, but as we walked through the door, two men grabbed Fatima's arm, and asked her something in Norwegian. Both Amir and Leila stopped and looked worried at the two men. Fatima looked confused, and one of the men stepped forward and asked for a second time, but now in English; Can I see your Id papers, Passport and residence papers...

Jonathan, Peder, Jacob,

...Not before the next day, they started to call important people to get residence permit in Norway. They got contact with the police in Oslo and got an appointment in two days. They packed their things and drove to Oslo. Their new friend from the boat, Hans, who had a great job of technology and earns a lot of money, bought them a hotel room and asked them out for dinner. They were thankful for the help and were excited for the next days. They went to the police station, where they were supposed to get residence permit in Norway. Since they already had residence permit in France, they only needed permanent residence permit in Norway.

The days went by, and they were waiting for their residence permits, but afraid of getting kicked out of the country. Hans remembered that he had an old friend that worked in the police department who he could call so he maybe could help Amir and his family to get resident permit faster. Amir's family didn't know about the plan that Hans had, because he didn't want them to get their hopes up. Hans made a quick call to his friend to see if he had the time to meet him so that he could explain the situation. Hans friend said yes to meet Hans. When they had the meeting, his friend named Kåre agreed to help the family...

Celina, Tiril, Saranda, Marie

...Three months later we get a post from "UDI". then we make an interview. We waited for few months again, we were afraid what the answer will be either positive or negative. Luckily, we received residence permit. We have chosen to continue in Larvik, because we really loved the city, so we rent a big house for all of us near the school...

Selina, Ferishta, Henriette, Mathilde

...What really shocked us in Larvik was the prices. Norway is very expensive when it comes to product, which meant we couldn't purchase as much as we wanted to. The stores were very different from what we were used to. When we would walk into shops, they would almost be empty, this is something that was very rare in Syria. Although the food was very expensive, it was all very high quality...

Mohammed, Kristopher, Conrad, Thomas

...One month has gone. Amir's mother works as a waitress and earns just enough to support them. They live in a small place run by NAV. Amir attend Thor Heyerdahl upper secondary school. Fatima goes to another school some kilometers away from his. He feels fine going at school here. It's a special class where they teach Norwegian and Norwegian culture. Amir have met some Syrian people and other from all over the world, most of them come from the Middle East. After school he work in a car wash. Their hope is to get their own home. They get some help from NAV with monthly payments. They also got temporary residence permit and they are hoping for a permanent. They will apply for citizenship when they have the chance.

Amir and his family have been in Norway for 6 months. He has learned some new Norwegian words and sentences. He has also got some Norwegian friends. One of them is Martin. His sister has also got some new friends and she is enjoying her friendships. Amir's family are experiencing that the Norwegian culture is open and friendly. They are also feeling that Norway support families with economic issues, making it easy to be a part of the society. It was a huge help for them and they are hoping to be reunited with their father...

Katrine, Frøya, Filip, Ida

...One day Amir's mother, Fatima, asked him after school if he had got any new friends, and she wanted him to tell about them. Amir told her that he had got many new friends, and a lot of them are playing soccer after school. Most of them are playing for the local team "Fram Larvik". "Can I also join them playing soccer?" Amir asked his mother. After a while she answered, "Maybe, but isn't it anything else you would like to do?". "No" Amir said. He knew right why his mother wanted him to do other things, it was because they were short with money, and could just use what they had on the most essential things, like food and clothes. Amir felt it was very unfair and miserable that all his friends played football and joined social meetings without him.

Amir went every day to the school classes and made new friends every day. Still it was hard for him to fit into the Norwegian society. Everything was different from his life in Syria: the school system, the people and Norwegian norms.

Silje, Felix, Janne, Sigrid

...The football club helped me to get more friends. After a while we became a big group of people that were just like me, immigrants that had come to Norway with their family, but also many Norwegians. I finally started to feel like I really liked this place. When I came to Norway, I had a lot of emotions. When we arrived, I was scared, everything was new for me and I had never seen anything like this. After a while I wasn't scared anymore, I was sad. I missed my home and I felt lonely. I didn't understand much, and everything was very hard for me. Now it's much better I have a best friend and a football team that I spend a lot of time with. I am trying to learn some Norwegian words but it's very hard, they talk super-fast. My dad got three jobs and my mom with all her love is doing her best to take care of the family. I am happy for the first time in a long time, and so is my family. I pray every night that it's going to stay this way, I never want to leave Larvik. This is our home now.

Aya, Lydia, Mia, Maren