

The background is a light pink color with several abstract, organic shapes in shades of blue and red. In the top left corner, there is a blue leaf with white veins. In the top right, there is a red and blue shape that looks like a stylized face or a drop. In the bottom left, there is a red and blue shape that looks like a stylized drop or a leaf. In the bottom right, there is a red shape with concentric, wavy lines, resembling a topographical map or a wood grain pattern.

Being Bengali in America, For my Parents versus Me.

Maisa Mamun
CLDV 100



01. Background



Immigration to America

- My family and I moved to America around 2007. I have my parents and my two older brothers.
- My mom and dad are both from Bangladesh
- My mom had a degree in accounting and my dad had a doctorate in medicine.
- I was around three years old when we moved to America
- I grew up with my education all being in America.
- My brothers had some education back in Bangladesh before coming to America.



02. School



School in Bangladesh



School in America




Similarities

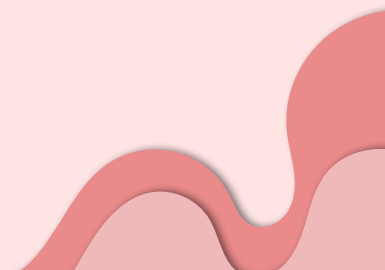

- Students would begin their days with a pledge.
- After classes end the students go outside to have snacks with their friends.
- Standardized testing

Differences

- In Bangladesh (BD), schools in cities and towns are better staffed and financed than in rural areas.
- In BD students show more respect towards their teachers, calling them sir or ma'am.
- In BD there is corporal punishment.
- Classes are sometimes divided between girls and boys.
- Students wear uniforms



03. Food



Food in Bangladesh

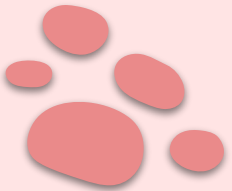
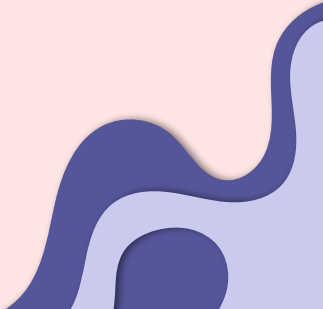


Food in America

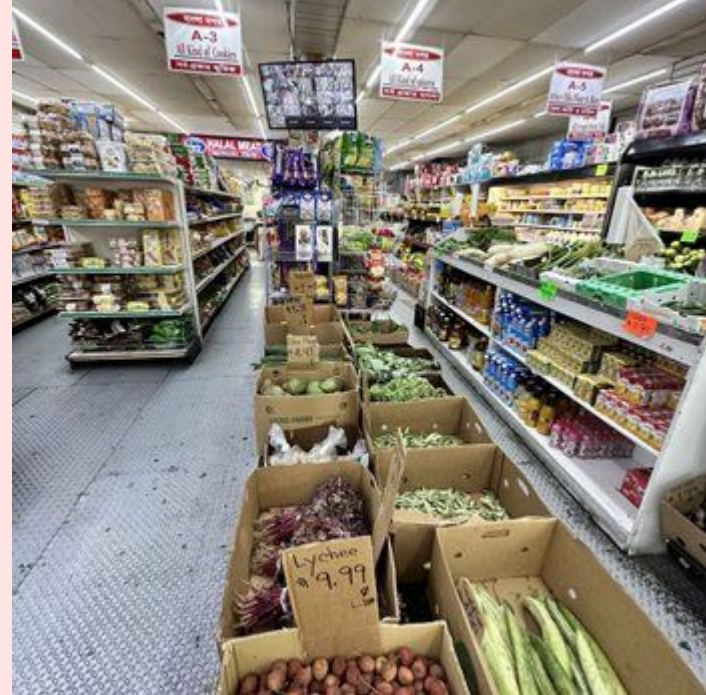




Experiences with food:

- My parents continued to eat traditional Bengali food while my brothers and I got more used to American food.
 - My parents would get ingredients for the traditional food from the Bengali supermarket and had to go to the American supermarket to get snack for my brothers and I.
 - Growing up I would eat traditional food at home and American food at school because I didn't want to be judged by the other kids.
 - My parents would make their lunch with traditional recipes and take it to work.
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Bengali Supermarket



American Supermarket





03. Way of life





Cultural norms in Bangladesh

- Neighbors were very close to each other.
- People are always close and connected.
- People show hospitality.
- Houses have servants and workers.

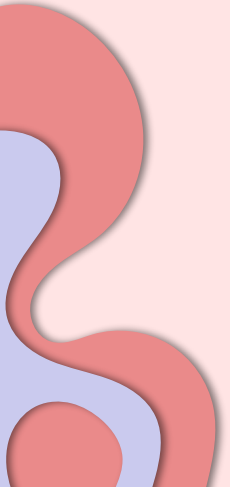



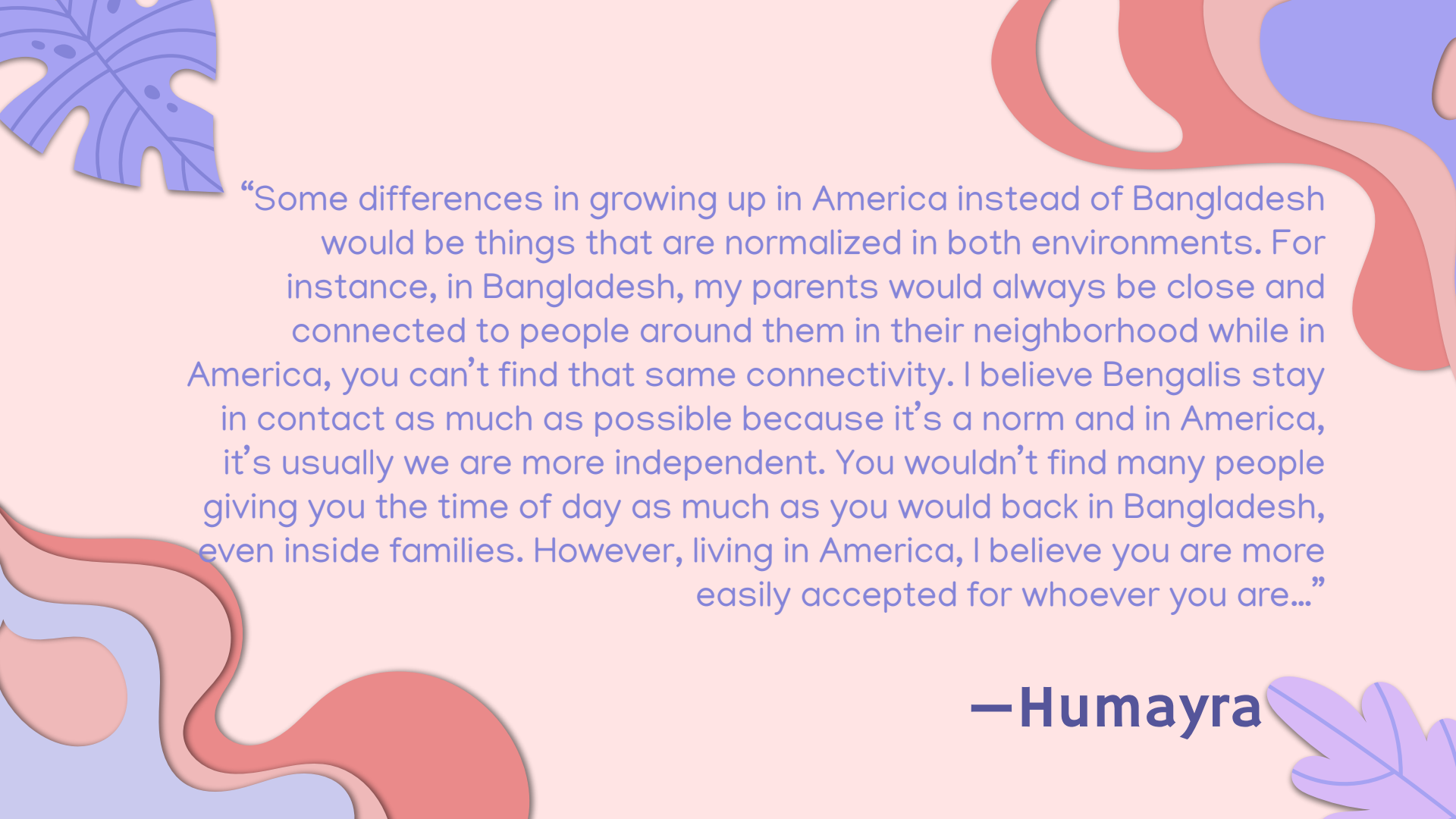
Cultural norms in America

- People of different ethnicities
- People aren't afraid to express themselves
- People spend more time in work or school
- Everyone follows their own beliefs and ideas



Struggles of my Parents

- People are not as connected and close to their neighbors.
 - Families and friends keep to themselves.
 - Everyone follows their own schedule.
 - No servants to make their life easier.
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“Some differences in growing up in America instead of Bangladesh would be things that are normalized in both environments. For instance, in Bangladesh, my parents would always be close and connected to people around them in their neighborhood while in America, you can’t find that same connectivity. I believe Bengalis stay in contact as much as possible because it’s a norm and in America, it’s usually we are more independent. You wouldn’t find many people giving you the time of day as much as you would back in Bangladesh, even inside families. However, living in America, I believe you are more easily accepted for whoever you are...”

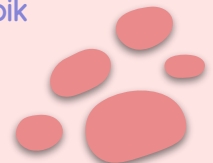
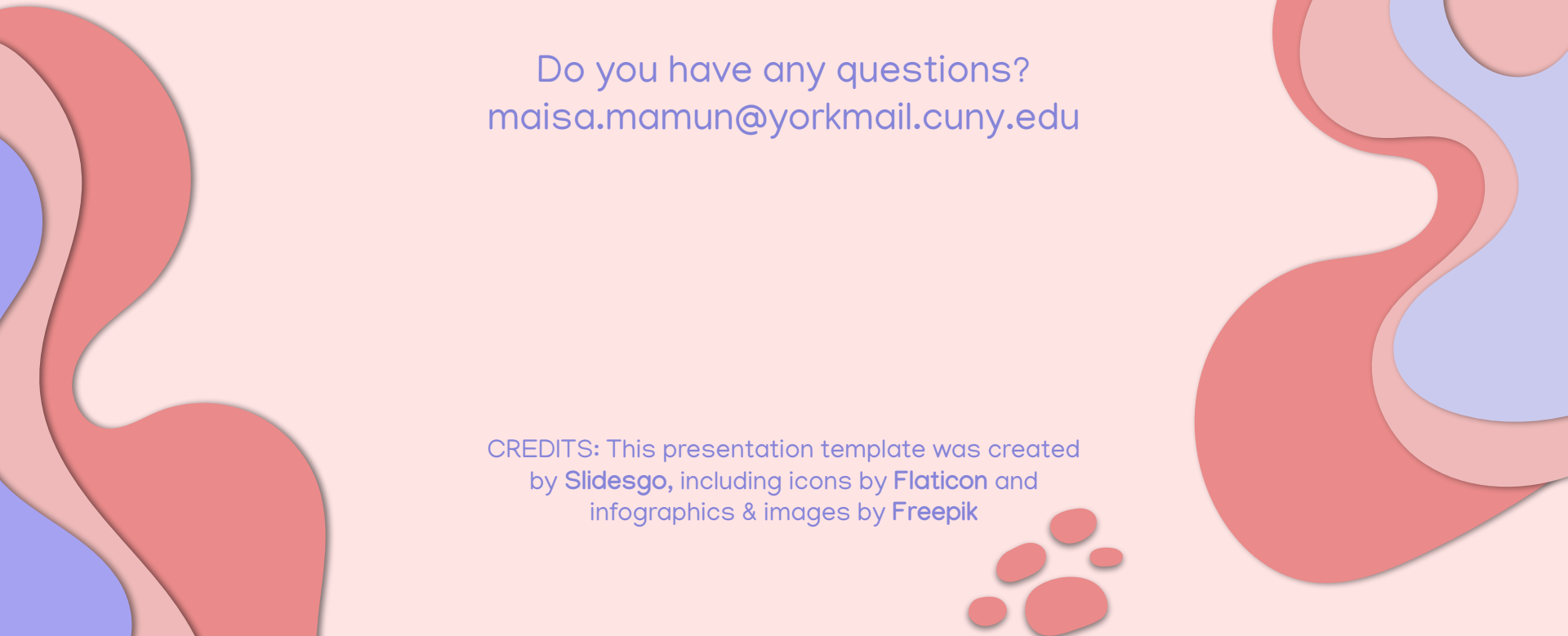
– Humayra



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?
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2. Interview answer: Humayra Mahboob