

How do I look? Am I cute? Yes, I'm cute. I've always been a happy, bright boy, so I'm popular at school. However, sometimes I feel shy. I notice that many students my age are becoming scared to speak up in class. We are afraid of making mistakes. I feel that something is changing. I can feel it in every class at school. When we were small children, we were excited about life, and not afraid to say what we think. I remember those days.

I have three younger cousins who have made me realize that I'm changing. My oldest cousin Komei is seven years old, and he is very strong. I am amazed when I watch him play soccer or baseball under the flaming sun. He never complains, and he never quits. When I was younger, I always felt excited and happy. But now, sometimes I feel lost. As a teenager, life seems more confusing.

My second cousin Karin is very confident. When I go shopping for clothes with her, she is very particular about what she likes and dislikes. I am amazed that she is already able to say her opinions clearly, even though she is only five years old. When I was 5, I used to always speak my mind. Lately, I find myself being quieter, because I'm afraid of what other people might think of me.

My third cousin Kufu is only two years old, but he has taught me the most important lesson of all. Before I spent time with him, I wanted to be a soccer player. But he changed my dream.

I remember the exact moment when I made this decision. It was when my three cousins came to stay at my house. My mother went shopping with my two oldest cousins, leaving me alone with Kufu. After they were gone, Kufu looked strange. I felt his face and he had a high fever. I was shocked and very scared. I called my mother quickly, but she told me it would take twenty minutes for her to come home. Kufu was so weak he couldn't stand. I felt so worried I began to cry. Finally my mother came home. She gave him medicine and he gradually started feeling better. I was relieved to see this, but I also felt very guilty. I had done nothing for him.

At that moment, I felt something change in me. It struck me like thunder. Suddenly I realized a new dream for myself. Now, I want to be a doctor for children. I want to be a doctor who can help with the challenges of growing up.

I am inspired by small children and I can hear their voices from my heart. I want to be brave, pure, and innocent like a child even as I become an adult. We should not lose these qualities, even as we grow up. I think that we can learn from children, and speak loudly and confidently without any fear.

I think that it is very difficult to be fourteen or fifteen. I am not a child, but I'm not an adult. What does it mean to grow up? We gain skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to live in society. But we learn to judge ourselves and compare ourselves to others. Children are different. Do you know any small children? Please listen to them, and learn from them.

Now I can see a tall, smart, and handsome doctor with a child-smile. It's me.

Thank you for listening.