

## Grizzly Bears, Polar Bears, and Panda Bears

I love the story of where polar bears came from. It has a lot to do with adaptation and survival. Here's how it began. Somehow, a grizzly bear got lost in a freezing winter storm. After the storm had passed, the grizzly found itself in the Arctic, unable to go back to its home. The bear was half frozen in this place as cold as an ice cube and had nothing but her light shaggy coat. The bear soon gave birth there and surprisingly enough, one of her cub's coat was lighter than the other. When the mom taught them how to hunt, the lighter one caught more seals and fish. Its coat gave it the advantage, letting it blend in more with the snow, and slowly, as these bears kept giving birth, more of the bears were white, so they had better chances of surviving. Eventually, the bears were completely white. That's how polar bears came to be.

That's sort of what my grandma and grandpa did. When they moved from Korea to America, they learned how to fit in with everyone else because they realized that if you change your ways then you will be better off and more successful. When they started trying to fit in, they lost some of their Korean culture. For example, they don't speak Korean anymore and they don't eat rice and soup for breakfast. They also lost jung (정,情). Jung is when you and your family have a relationship when you sacrifice for other people and worry about them. My mom has jung which is sometimes annoying but is hugely appreciated by me. My dad is way more American than my mom. This is because my dad was born in the U.S. and my mom was born and raised in Korea. My dad's way of loving is very different than my mom's way. His way is more American, giving me more independence and not sacrificing as much as my mom. He has also lost jung just like his parents.

As people keep immigrating and changing, bit by bit they start to lose their culture. In the future, I would like for everyone to keep their culture. Culture is so interesting and so unique. You should not be embarrassed by your culture at all.

I wish that in the future we would find out a way to adjust and at the same time keep our culture. In the future, I would like to keep these cultures from Korea: taking off our shoes when we walk in the house, eating lots of Korean food, keeping jung, playing the special Korean drum, and speaking Korean with my children. Some American cultures to keep: eating sweet food for breakfast, not having to brush your teeth after lunch, and respecting independence.

If I had the choice, I would not be a grizzly bear, I would not be a polar bear, I would be a panda bear.