ENGLISH: ARTICLE WRITING

TOPIC: FAMILY: DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY. WHERE DO YOU LIVE? DO YOU LIVE IN A TOWN OR IN THE COUNTRY? DO YOU LIVE NEAR YOUR FAMILY? HOW OFTEN DO YOU SEE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS? DO YOU HAVE COUSINS, NEPHEWS, AND NIECES?

My name is Ann, but my friends call me a `handsome girl`. This name came about when I got used to no long hair consistency. One moment I am girlish and the other moment the barber`s got a job and some money. My mother did most of the braiding and all the hair care necessary since I took little or no care about it, much as I loved hair.

When I was a little girl, I fancied long hair and had long hair, but a switch in school changed everything. A new school meant new rules that I had to abide by. I had no worries because I was so excited to finally be close to my two elder brothers and sister and my studies would be a bit smooth than the previous school`s.

I used to be top of my class in the previous school, but things changed a few times in the new school before I adjusted to the system. That made me get into trouble with my friend who used to be in position three because this time she thought I took her position while it wasn`t the truth.

I have four brothers and one sister, who love me so much and I love them too. My mother usually did so many disciplines talks and actions too. She was hard, especially on my sister who would be a hard nut to crack sometimes. I have also received my lifetime discipline beating from her for coming home late from an errand she had sent us to carry out with my younger brother.

She would also pray for us and notice even the slightest changes in me like the colour of my skin and texture. One of the most memorable quotes she told me while I was in my senior school was to never give up on myself. Until this day I carry that statement with me whenever I feel like giving up on everything.

This woman remains so dear and a great source of motivation and hope even in her demiseone year ago.

My elder brother is a gem. He is talkative and loving not to forget motivating. He can be tough sometimes on my sister but not so with me, and I haven`t figured out why yet. We have so much talk about life, and he has had quite a big impact on my spiritual growth. He keeps reminding me that I am a daughter of a king and do not need to worry about things because he cares for all of them.

I can only imagine who my elder sister is to me because most of the time I played the role of the elder sister, but I have borrowed a few lessons from her, one is having a big heart, being accommodative enough to make people comfortable around her and be easy to speak herself out in times of need, whether she is in a happy mood or a sad mood.

I have two three nephews and one niece. They all are growing so fast and smart. The youngest is my sister`s second born who is three months old and getting taller by day. Her firstborn son is my favorite. His love for his mother is evident. One quarrel with her and you have a slap on your face in defense of `my mother`.

These events and moments of growth have happened in three different places for me. I was born in the countryside where farming was a major source of income and food as well. I loved times when I would milk the cow, and when the cow gave birth to a calf because then we are guaranteed plenty of milk for sale and for consumption.

Another thing I loved about my birthplace was the availability of water which made it possible for us to have sugarcane grown, enough bananas around the cow shed near the homestead, and enough vegetables to feed on.

That is the same place where my father taught me how to organize a garden and make sure there are enough trees to cater for firewood, timber, when need be, the aesthetic value of the place, and fruits. This reminds me of a certain cedar tree that grew close to our house. It was not just any other tree but a home to many birds.

The place was self-sustainable. The manure from the cow would be used to grow crops like cabbages, kales, potatoes, maize, and beans as well as the Napier grass for the cow. The food from the garden would be eaten at home, some remainder for the chicken and the birds too.

The chicken would be our delicious delicacy during parties, which did not happen so often, and the most anticipated period of the year, the Christmas season.

This is a past tense writing mode because we currently live in a semi-arid location where water is to be fetched from far distances and the crops do thrive when it’s rainy season and sometimes may dry up due to inadequate rainfall, unlike my birthplace where water was in plenty. It isn`t as much green as our previous homestead but my father still puts effort into ensuring that there is shade in the compound, and trees to cater for would, although not much so we have to fetch fire would too.

I am a visitor sort of in my home. Worry not why. I have another home away from home where I have spent most of my days since the year 2019 to date. This is a family of many brothers and sisters, some in jobs, others in universities and colleges, others in high school, and the last cohort in primary school level.

I have had quite a good time here, many lessons learned and a lot of support too. Our mom here, International Peace Initiatives, teaches us about appreciation of the things we have, presence and mindfulness in our day-to-day activities, and that we do need to have the knowledge of who we are.

It is from her I have learned that there are many challenges meant to pull us down, but once we master the aspect of dancing with life and have God included in our plans then we shall conquer. She is a beautiful soul whose work hasn`t had enough write-ups.

It is through her support I have managed to study to complete my bachelor`s degree in Journalism and Mass communication from a well-known campus in my country.

It is through her support that one of our brothers has managed to study at the university, graduate, and get a job in Sweden. This brother has also continued blessing lives by coming back home and carrying out a glamorous wedding.

I am grateful I am here. Most of the time I get comfortable almost forgetting my nephews, nieces, and cousins. I have cousins but as we grow older, we tend to grow apart which I guess is also caused by misunderstandings between my mother and my father`s sisters.

My late mother`s sisters and brothers have sons and daughters some of whom we haven`t grown close to each other and the one I am in touch with is very different and has different perspectives and we do not have so much in common.

I am looking forward to graduating and getting a job so that I will be able to make Mom proud and give back to my capability back, not forgetting the need for water back at home. And basically, this is my family.