

A Big Dream for Korea

Ellie Kang. 2nd Grade. NJ

Hi, my name is Ellie, and I'm 7 years old. I love learning about Korea's history. One of my favorite stories is about King SeJong the Great and the other one of my favorites is about Yu Gwan-sun unni from the March 1st Movement.

A long time ago our country was not free, and people were not happy. But then, something amazing happened. Over 2 million brave people joined and 33 brave leaders read a Declaration of Independence in Seoul, saying that Korea should be free!

I imagine it was like a big birthday party, but instead of cake, people were shouting "Mansei!" "Long live Korean!". People waved Korean flags peacefully. It was a big deal and the old pictures looked amazing.

My hero Yu Gwan-sun unni was only a student like me, but she helped lead many people. She was so brave, even when she was scared. She said, "When it's dawn in the morning, do roosters cry because someone tells them to? No! We rise because it's time to be independent!" She showed that girls like me can be leaders of friends, uncles and aunts if we can be brave and can persuade with words.

The March 1st Movement was special because it was peaceful. People used words, not muscles, to fight for freedom. They sang, marched, and prayed together. It was like a big team work! It showed the world that Koreans were strong and wanted to be free. It gave us hope and courage.

Now, Korea is independent, and we celebrate March 1st as a Korean national holiday. I am a descendant of [pastor Lee](#) (이인식 목사님) from this difficult time who was a leader to many and have said No! to shrine visits for his faith and for his church followers. Also my dad volunteered for 2 years of Korean Army Service to keep his Korean roots. I'm proud to be a Korean too, and Yu Gwan-sun unni along with my mom and dad are my superheroes making many Koreans proud!